Glad Tidings

January/February 1996

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Glad Tidings

Jan./Feb. 1996 Volume 72 No. 1

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GLAD TIDINGS reports on aspects of the Women's Missionary Society on all levels.

GLAD TIDINGS challenges concerned Christians to reflect on their faith through articles and reports related to mission and social justice issues, locally, nationally and internationally.

GLAD TIDINGS through its content, encourages readers to become informed, educated, inspired and motivated to action.

GLAD TIDINGS provides a forum for a broad spectrum of opinion and information, thus the views expressed in features, news reports, letters and book reviews are not necessarily endorsed by the WMS (WD) or by the Editor.

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This issue . . . Journeying

Journeying...

January/February 1996

Sometimes Glad Tidings comes together easily over a theme. Other times, as with this issue, a theme doesn't become apparent until the eleventh hour. Although plans had been made, some material was delayed and even the proposed cover had to be postponed.

The replacement I selected suggested to me the familiar words of the hymn, *Standing at the portal of the opening year....* As I looked anew at the copy for the magazine, the theme suddenly jumped out clearly...*journeying.*

Journeying seems an appropriate theme as we move into a new year, a time when we tend to yearn for opportunities such as a 'fresh start' or a 'clean page.' We may be less disappointed at failed resolutions a few weeks down the road if we remember all of life is a journey which does not begin anew with each year but is ever new and renewing.

Someone on TV recently spoke of western civilization's obsession with time. He suggested there were really no deadlines (my interpretation!) since when it is time, things will come to fruition as they were meant to.

I find that thought comforting as I face the challenge of doing the layout for this issue on a new desktop publishing computer program and completing it before I go off to a Sacred Assembly in Ottawa the first week of December.

It is also a very freeing thought since it enables me to give my attention to the numerous other tasks in my day, anticipating that all will unfold as it should.

I am also comforted by the fact that we are all on a journey of faith. We do not always know the shape of things to come; the answers to everything are not always clear. One thing we can be certain of is the unknown, and that sometimes along the way we will be overcome by trepidation and fear.

As the magazine took shape I read about the experiences of other people on their journeys, journeys that are personal and moving, journeys that took courage to share. Inner journeys and journeys to foreign places by some who have been open to God's leading in their lives and who have taken time to listen to that "still small voice."

I hope that you will be guided on your own journey by the experiences of others, and that you will be encouraged and strengthened.

A quotation from my early years that has guided me on my journey comes to mind. It was on a plaque in our house and was quoted by King George VI in the 30s in his annual speech: "And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year: 'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.'

"And he replied: 'Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way." (Minnie Louise Haskins)

As you journey, may you feel the presence of our Lord and Saviour who has promised to be with us always, even to the end of time, and may you travel with anticipation and hope into the new year.

Written in Love *June*

That First Step

It wasn't easy Lord
taking that first step
stumbling
and
falling
learning to pick myself up.

I was so tempted at times
to just stay where I was.

It was less painful that way.

Sometimes I paid more attention
to my feet
than to where I was going.
I didn't see Your arms
reaching out
to guide me.

But finally
at long last
my unsteadiness gave way to
certainty
my despair to hope.

It took a while Lord
but now
I'm able to walk *with* You.

Barbara Mitchell

A recovered alcoholic speaks honestly about helping loved ones on their journey to recovery.

A Question of Choice

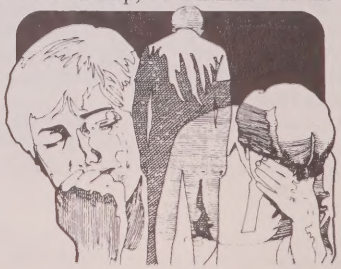
by Marguerite Cato

"Marguerite, if you don't get help to stop drinking it's all over with us," Bruce said. My husband was recovering from a heart attack. Despair washed over me because I knew I couldn't, not without help. I had no place to go, I felt backed into a corner. Then, I picked up the phone and called AA.

Now after eleven years, I possess a certain quality of sobriety and I'm very grateful Bruce had the courage to confront me in this way. It seemed very harsh at the time. Looking back, it was the best thing he could have done.

There are times now in sobriety, when in my church contacts I'm faced with the problem of how to help members of an alcoholic family. I know my own sobriety gives hope and I want to help others, but hurting people often need a quick fix. There is no way to do this unless the person is willing to really listen objectively.

Sometimes I can only refer the hurting members of an alcoholic family to get help with the sister organization to AA, Alanon. This is the best advice possible. Healing begins with the hurting partners seeking help for themselves. There are other sources of help, but Alanon was the route



The road to sobriety is not easy. I can only hope my words will help other family members to have the courage to take positive action which might lead a loved one back to sanity.

Bruce eventually took. In time, he came to realize and understand through contact with others in the same situation, that I could not be helped until I was presented with a firm choice. Many times the partner doesn't do this but it is the only way to obtain the right information needed to help a loved one so addicted.

Here are some of the things I've learned from experience in my own hard earned sobriety.

First of all, don't preach religion or voice any kind of reference to God, especially if you are not an alcoholic yourself. The alcoholic struggling with addiction is already suffering a guilt trip. He or she feels helpless to stop drinking but is as yet unwilling to accept or admit the problem cannot be licked alone. They have to reach this realization themselves by trial and reaching a personal rock bottom.

Pushing in this way does not help at all. It usually has a devastating effect resulting in more anger and resentment. Inwardly, this anger and resentment is directed towards the self. Deep down, the alcoholic doesn't want to hurt others but the nature of the addiction is ruthless and overpowering resulting in more baffling, irresponsible behaviour.

I know now in sobriety no recovery could have been achieved without this painful, confrontation step. Many hurting alcoholic families are afraid to take this kind of action but it really is the only effective way back to peace and serenity. In the end, although it did not seem so at the time, it is a shared responsibility.

I've been asked if praying helps and I'll answer that it helps bring some relief to the suffering family or partner. However, I firmly believe God only grants lasting strength when we begin to understand he wants us to accept responsibility for our lives and the lives of those we love.

The addicted alcoholic cannot at once see this, so the husband or wife has to take this drastic step for both of them. Whatever the result, it is a higher love and I for one, will always be grateful Bruce found the strength to do this.

So many times husbands and wives struggle to help their partners but I honestly believe that part of praying is to have the courage to make hard choices.

Another aspect to think about, is that for the alcoholic it is always a choice between life and death. The reality is that drinking inevitably leads to the grave. Bruce is gone now but I'm able to continue my life knowing I was sober and there for him when he needed me most. His positive action was a gift of tough love which returned me to sanity and a new peace of mind.

It didn't happen overnight and the battle goes on. There are still many problems I have to face. I have made my amends but alcoholism brings a certain dysfunction to the whole family, whether they are aware of it or not.

I had to regain my self respect, learn to feel I had worth as an individual and even how not to allow members of my family to ride roughshod over my boundaries. The road to sobriety is not easy. I can only hope my words will help other family members to have the courage to take positive action which might lead a loved one back to sanity. With this, please use the wisdom I received in AA: "Let go and let God!"

Next issue: Marguerite says *thank you* to God by volunteering for a mission project.

Be Still

Psalm 46:10

"Be still and know that I am God...." Sometimes it's hard to do.
My days are filled with busyness; my mind's all in a stew.
I don't take time to seek the Lord; I don't take time to pray.
The problems of my personal life crowd in upon my day.
I think that I am in control. I don't need God right now.
In fact, I haven't time to spare. I'll muddle through somehow.

I say, "Tomorrow I'll take time to really contemplate
Upon the things that really count: to know my Lord so great."
But just as I arise to pray the phone begins to ring,
Or someone calls, or from the mail some other problems spring.
So once again my time is filled with pressures here and there.
I tear my hair and breathe a sigh. "I have too much to bear."

But then one day the Lord says, "Stop! It's time to take a break."
I try to crawl out from my bed, but I begin to shake.
"Oh, no!" I cry, "I can't be ill. I have no time to spare."
It's then I hear my Lord at last: "My child, you know I care.
Be still and know that I am God. I will take care of you.
If you will let Me, I will help arrange your life anew."

"Be still and know that I am God...." It's always hard to do.
But God has promised in His Word that He will see me through.
I must take time to seek the Lord; I must take time to pray.
I must allow God full control. I need Him every day.
He'll be my refuge and my strength. On Him I will rely.
He's promised to be with me. He's always standing by.

Helen Dowd

- Helen Dowd is a freelance writer from Agassiz, B.C. She has had many poems and articles published.

For now we see in a mirror, dimly...

Christlike Image

by Lenny

It is a brisk winter morning. I find myself reading some notes from an inner healing seminar conducted by our pastor four years ago. I am nodding and shaking my head in agreement or disagreement with the principles he outlines. For I have already spent a long time on that healing journey towards wholeness and can decide for myself if he is right or not.

I disagree with him that wholeness is relative. He says it depends on where you are and where you think you should be. Scripture says that every person's goal is the attainment of the completeness of personality that is the measure of the stature of Christ. The stature of Christ is not relative.

Where we are on the journey may seem to have a particular perspective; but the end result will be the same for all of us. When we see Christ we will recognize Him because we will be like Him. And our dull vision now is to prepare us for that surprise of recognition that we have indeed become transformed. Sometimes that transformation is like everyday growth; we don't see it.

The images we have of ourselves range from saint to sinner, with infinite variations in between, wearing different clothes, different lengths of hair, different shades of flesh. But at the core of our being, behind the layers and layers of watery images we find, as someone recently put it, the baby in the manger. That image holds innocence and purity, softness and dependence.

Forgiveness involves owning the pain, accepting the loss and releasing the right to retribution.

Forgiveness says the pastor is the key to any kind of healing. It involves owning the pain, accepting the loss and releasing the right to retribution. These are high and mighty words. Yes, we should all acquiesce to their truth. But I have difficulty with this. There is something missing in this spiritual formula. I have not been able to put my finger on it for a long time.

With one side of the mouth we are told that forgiveness is an act of the will; that it is not an option but a command. And yet we are also told that forgiveness is something we do not have the ability in our own strength to do. Our wills are free to choose

something which we are commanded to do yet we have not the ability to perform it.

Inner healing involves reinterpreting negative experiences in the light of God's grace. It would seem to me that if we are born into this world in a state of sin or spiritual sickness, we all have to settle in on that journey of inner healing. Forgiveness involves reinterpreting negative experiences in the light of God's grace. It is not sufficient to simply own, accept and release the pain. Part of hating the sin and loving the sinner necessitates that we find a way to know God's purpose in our pain.

As sinners and as sinned against we need to find a place where we can recognize that God is bringing those who have sinned against us to the same place of wholeness he is bringing us. It is only then, I think, that we can have the will to forgive. We can then see God's justice in action.

I have an image of a child in a yellow dress walking along a beach. A young girl staring blankly leans against the photographer's backdrop of cool blue wall. I see a blithe young woman watching herself come alive on the artist's canvas. I see Jesus ever so faintly in the faces of those I love. Can I see Jesus in the faces of those who hurt me?

Sometimes this is difficult because the mirror we are looking upon is so fractured. On several occasions my schizophrenic mother while gazing upon her own image asked me who that person was. I found it difficult to answer her even as my voice mouthed the words. Is she on a journey to wholeness? I have to believe that God is not partial and that God's mercy knows no bounds. And where is Jesus in this face? I am not sure I will ever see Him in it; but I do know He is there.

"For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known." (I Corinthians 13:1 RSV)

- Lenny is the pseudonym of a Richmond Hill freelance writer.

"Opening the Door"
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

The week of Prayer for Christian Unity will be celebrated across Canada in local churches of various denominations from January 21 to 28, 1996. The week is sponsored by the Canadian Council of Churches.

This year, we come together, in body and spirit, to reflect on the theme, "Opening the Door". The doors of reconciliation and community can remain closed due to complacency or fear. Centred on Revelation, our daily prayers will focus on "opening the doors" - to Christ and to each other.

Liturgical and educational resources for the Week are combined in a kit which sells for $15.95. Reproducible services and Bible readings are included, as well as service "rubrics" and planning suggestions. The format makes it easy for parishes and congregations to adapt the material to their own needs. The resources are not dated and can be used throughout the year. Each kit contains:

- **Worship service**
- **Camera-ready readings and services**
- **Daily Reflections**
- **Sermon/homily helps**
- **full-colour bulletin covers**
- **A full-colour poster**
- **Suggestions for ecumenical prayer throughout the year**

Permission to reproduce for congregational use

You may find it convenient to use the following numbers to order materials: For service in English, please call 1-800-387-7164; in the Toronto area, call (416) 363-3303; fax (416) 393-9409.

A Prayer for Servanthood

I ask to come into thy presence, Lord;
I ask to come into thy holy presence;
I have need of thy holy love and peace.

There is so much I do not understand.
"Man's inhumanity to man."
Why?

Why, when we know the essence of
Christian faith is one?

I could not speak except for your salvation.
Once, I too had other gods. Pride, self-righteousness,
anger, ambition.
How could you reach me?
But these gods tricked me, they were not enough.
The pits of the miry clay were swallowing me up.
Was there no escape?

Suddenly you could reach me. I was lost but you cared.
I could feel it.
Lord I said, I cannot go on;
I surrender.

Gradually, and yet instantly, I was enveloped by
Your love and warmth
Your "I love you." "I forgive you."

Amazing grace. Love so divine.

Our church, our Christian people have so sinned.
Amazing grace, you love us still.

Lord, we are humbled by such love and forgiveness.

Jesus washed his disciples' feet.
Give us, we pray, the humility and love,
To wash our neighbor's feet.

Give us the grace, we pray, to respect our sister and brother,
As we would wish to be respected;
To love as we would so wish to be loved.

Lord God, help us to be truly thy disciples. Amen.

M. G. Wincott

Alive in Winter

Thank you, Lord,
for letting me in on the quiet wonders of winter.

- catching the sight of the snow cascading from the eaves
under the bright influence of the February sun

- sitting in silence
looking out on the beauty of the quiet, still winter landscape

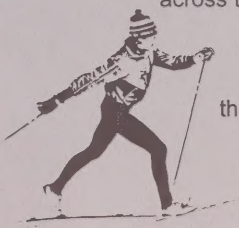
- striding out on my cross-country skiis
my friend by my side,
laughing in vigorous companionship in the midst of winter beauty

- hearing the crunch of my boots as I walk in the
cold, vibrant, bracing air

- experiencing the feeling of being fully alive
as I face into the blizzard, scarf up over my nose,
toque down over my forehead,
my eyes in slits showing the way ahead

- coming into the warm house
sheltering from the storm which felt so good in small doses

- remembering from my warm shelter the joys of tobogganing as a child,
the gratitude now that I remained safe while skating by myself
across the bay in my late teens (how unwise!)
but how invigorating it was!



Thank you, Lord
that you made me a winter person
in a northern land.

June Campbell

Journeying Abroad...China

To Beijing - and Back!

by Joan Sampson

What was probably the largest ever gathering of women held anywhere, from almost every country in the world, met in China from August 31 to September 15, 1995. The NGO (Non-governmental Organizations) Forum, with up to 30,000 participants met in Huairou, 55 km north of Beijing, while the 4th World Conference on Women, which had delegations from 185 countries, plus observers from accredited NGOs (about 3000), was much smaller. Both were organized through the United Nations. I was privileged to be there, representing the WMS at the Forum and the Presbyterian Church in Canada at the World Conference.

I spent most of my time at the Forum, which each day provided a smorgasbord of events - usually a plenary session with a panel of speakers plus up to 150 workshops, discussion groups, panels etc. running at the same time. This was true for each time slot, and as there were only four or five slots each day, making choices was very difficult! I tended to make mine from the themes of Health, Spirituality and Religion, and Science and Technology, with a few in Peace and Human Security and Media.

That left out Economy, Governance and Politics, Human Legal Rights, Education, Arts and Culture, Race and Ethnicity, and Youth - there was just not enough time! Moving from one session to another often involved a long hike - not much fun on those rainy days you may have heard about. There were also lots of cultural events in between and in the evenings - the African and the Chinese Cultural evenings were particularly colourful.

My most vivid recollections are of the African delegation and some of their presentations. The "African Tent" was the liveliest place on the Forum site, with meetings, music and dancing, displays and discussions. The women were beautiful in exotic and colourful dress, often with matching headdress; hairstyles which were sculptures of tiny braids; beautiful carriage, and warm smiles.

To show their concern for the future of their daughters, each country sent a mother and daughter pair, and a number of their sessions focused specifically on the needs of girls. They knew their priorities, and stated them clearly: women's poverty, with

- Left to right, Barbara McLean, Rebecca Gomez and Joan Sampson.

insufficient food security and lack of economic empowerment; inadequate access to education and training for girls and women; women's vital role in culture and the family; improvement of women's health; women's relationship to the environment; involvement of women in the peace process; political empowerment of women and their legal and human rights.

It is clear that in most of their societies, boys are favoured over girls and get the best of scarce resources, and because of this women are less educated and often relegated to agricultural labour or selling on the street (the "informal" sector of the economy); are in poorer health than men (the rate of death from AIDS in women in central Africa is about five times that of men); and have lesser roles in decision making - and this carries over into the Church.

Armed conflict is or has been a reality in much of Africa for many years, leaving wasted land, widows, orphans, disabled and traumatized persons, refugees - and land mines which continue to maim long after the shooting stops. It is often women who have to pick up the pieces after the conflict, which they neither started nor wanted, ends. A panel of Sudanese women - a Roman Catholic, a Baptist and a Muslim - gave a ray of hope with their joint program of peacemaking - setting aside their religious differences to work together.

It took diligent searching, but we Canadian Presbyterians managed to meet Flora Chirwa of Malawi, brought to the Forum by Presbyterian World Service and Development. She and two other women from Malawi led an excellent workshop on the life and problems of women in their country, and there was good and helpful discussion among the women present, from several countries. (That borders do not define problems and concerns - or solutions - was a lesson that I learned over and over again.) Flora is a nurse and active worker in her community and her church, and it was a privilege to meet her.

- Flora Chirwa.

PWS&D also sponsored Rebecca Gomez from Costa Rica (she was even harder to find than Flora!), a delightful young community worker, and Gina Farnell, a High School teacher from Quebec City. All three will be sharing their experiences on their return home.

I also attended one full day and some briefing sessions at the World Conference, in company with Barbara McLean, Deputy Clerk of the General Assembly. Barbara stayed on to the end of the Conference and helped with some of the 28 NGO Caucuses, formed at the Forum, whose role was to

lobby the government delegations in the hope that their decisions on the "Platform for Action" document would reflect the NGOs positions on critical areas of concern - those I have identified already, plus violence against women, gender equality, and media.

In summary I would say simply that the whole experience was positive and enriching. It was very moving to be in such a company of women, working together for the common good in an atmosphere of openness, concern and respect. I met many wonderful women of faith, women who celebrate and share their faith in many different ways, and were there because they believed that "ultimately the power of love wins out over the love of power" (Rev. Mary Susan Gast).

It is my hope that this conference will result in concrete action by individuals, NGOs and governments towards achieving equality between men and women everywhere, and a better quality of life for people in the developing world.

- Joan Sampson is a past president of the Women's Missionary Society. She was the official representative of the WMS at the NGO Conference in Beijing, and along with Barbara McLean, was granted observer status for the Presbyterian Church in Canada at the UN 4th World Conference on Women.

Official logo NGO forum

Journeying Abroad...Nicaragua

Seeing Things Through New Eyes

by Laura Stevenson

I traveled to Nicaragua after spending six weeks in Guatemala studying Spanish, and two weeks of traveling through Guatemala and Honduras. I was on my way to work as a self-funded volunteer for the Presbyterian Church in Canada for two months. During my time in Nicaragua I tried to do as much as possible, for example visiting different barrios and getting to know the people of Managua. I also did a variety of things with the "Young Peoples' Christian Association" (YMCA) including teaching a group of young campesino men, who play guitar by ear, how to read music.

My entire experience in Central America, and particularly Nicaragua, has changed me as a person. I believe this because of how I felt upon returning to Canada and how I still feel two months later. But maybe before I try to explain

- Laura Stevenson

how I see things differently now it would be best to try to tell about living conditions in Managua.

Managua, unlike my home town Toronto, is a spread out, dirty city with no visible city center and I found it very difficult to get used to my surroundings, although I don't know if I should say I ever got used to them. Maybe it's better to say that at times I tried to become blind? to many things in order to cope and continue living and functioning because if I had thought about what it was that I was experiencing I would have been overcome with grief, guilt, shame and finally, most overwhelmingly, anger. And many times I was.

It wasn't until my trip was almost over that I really began seeing what I had been trying not to see for two months. Let me try to describe some of the things I learned to live with every day.

What I saw were children washing windows at intersections, begging, singing with maracas made out of bottles and filled with sand, shining shoes, pickpocketing, asking if they could guard your car while you went into the post office - anything which they could do for money.

Every day on my way to work, outside of the University, about 500 meters from where I lived, for the entire time I was in Nicaragua, I walked past and sometimes through farmers protesting, some with their families, and living under black garbage bags, sleeping in plastic hammocks, huddled around fires, all to protest for title to their land and for credit to continue as farmers.

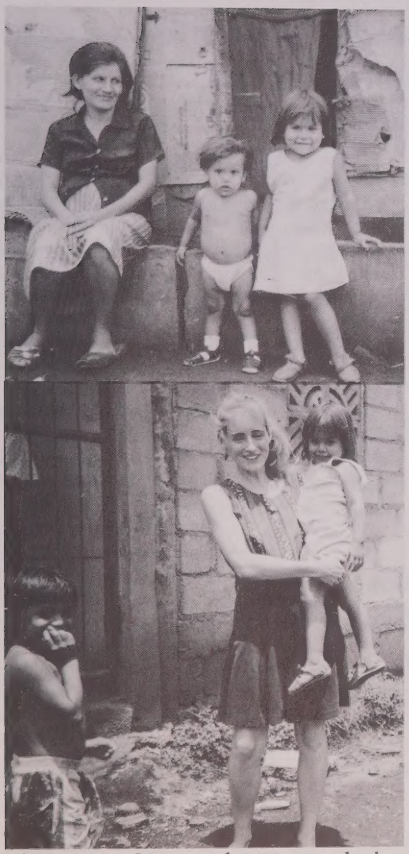
Daily on the bus I turned my head away from veterans of war, missing legs and arms, as they were carried on or off by their friends and I pretended not to see as they dragged themselves along the sidewalks as I walked past. I didn't want to stare with disbelief that people must live this way. Sometimes it took every effort of my being to keep my composure, look away and go on. There is no compensation and they have no wheelchairs or false limbs to help.

I was surrounded by filthy people without shoes, proper clothing, and with visible skin diseases. On every empty space of land garbage could be seen collecting, making ideal breeding grounds for disease.

- Photos page 14, remembering the Sandinistas's victory in Managua; page 15, families in the barrio, with Denise van Wissen.

Being a "white" fair-haired North American in a society such as this was also no security for it brought on unwanted attention and made people such as myself targets, slightly more so than the average Nicaraguan, for petty crime such as pickpocketing and robbery.

Every day when I ventured out I paid particular attention to where I was putting my money, what I was carrying with me and in what. I usually carried my things in a plastic bag so as not to look like I was carrying anything of value, which I usually wasn't. But these crimes are a fact of life for all



Nicaraguans. One must learn to travel wisely and always know where their valuables are.

I was robbed once as I was getting on a bus. A man behind me at the bus stop grabbed my watch as I reached up to pull myself on. At first I was shaken, then I was mad and then I felt ashamed for being so angry at someone who is just a victim of this society. I felt sorry for him because he didn't have much choice in choosing occupations and I realized that I couldn't take this act of aggression personally. He didn't mean to hurt me. He was only doing what he knew how to do in order to survive.

After living amongst devastating poverty in a city still in ruins from earthquakes and recovering from civil war, and after living with minimal luxuries of home, coming back was incredibly overwhelming for me. I felt very awkward when I first came home; it's a feeling that's hard to explain. I can only describe it as feeling out of place and paranoid.

I was amazed at the immensity of everything we have - fast food restaurants, shopping centers that sell anything you may desire and have a huge selection of different brand names.

I had forgotten how beautiful my bedroom was and felt as if I was in a hotel or something. I was struck by the whiteness of our bathroom, and the cleanliness of our entire city and the quietness of it after living in Managua. Even the ring of the phone sounded different to me. Everything is so organized in Canada and laws seem to be so strictly enforced i.e. parking laws - I've already gotten one ticket since my return. (But sshhh! don't tell my mother about that!)

In the two months I've been home I see things differently; sometimes it's as if I've never seen things before. Just last week I was downtown for the first time since I've been home and I was amazed at the size of our skyscrapers. I couldn't believe how high they are! And in the supermarket amongst all the different products I think often of where they all came from, who farmed them and picked them, etc. and were they paid adequately for their work? Sadly, probably not.

I encourage everyone to please be thankful for everything that we have here in Canada and to spend a little more time thinking about the small things in life that we take for granted. I'd also like to encourage anyone with the desire to visit Central America to do so and share something of yourselves with people who greatly appreciate it.

- Laura Stevenson is a recent graduate in music from Carleton University. She spent five months in Central America in 1995 as a self-funded volunteer with the Presbyterian Church in Canada. Laura is the daughter of editor L. June Stevenson.

*Journeying Abroad...*Eritrea

I Can Still Walk

by Laura Steele

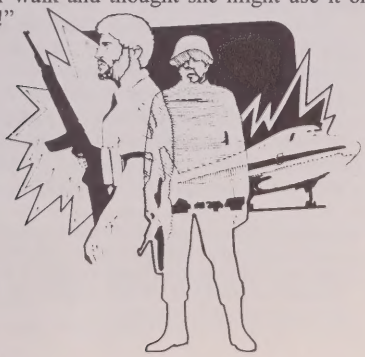
"They beat me on the soles of my feet, but praise the Lord, I can still walk!" she exclaimed with a smile as she limped along the rough street balancing herself with a make-shift cane.

Peace had come to Eritrea after many years of civil war. The people were elated to have won their freedom and were struggling to rebuild their country. I was delighted to be able to visit the area where I had spent many years in mission service.

Grace had polio when she was a baby. Her parents took her to the mission clinic and left her with the missionaries. She was such a little mite, dirty, sick and with little hope in this world. With loving care, cleanliness and medical help she survived but her parents did not want her. So she lived in a mission boarding school.

As a result of the polio one leg was shorter than the other. When she was fully grown she was barely four feet tall. She was very clever so when she finished grade eight we hired her to teach in the girls' school.

"We always were afraid of Grace, and behaved for her," a former student told me. "We knew that she carried a stick to help her walk and thought she might use it on us!"



Life was not easy for Grace, and because of her determination and strong political views she often ran into opposition and trouble. However, her faith in the goodness of God never faltered. When civil war broke out she did not hide where her sympathies lay and did all that was in her power to help the liberation forces. Neither did she hide her faith in the face of the communist take-over.

"When the soldiers came to take me it was as if a page from the Bible descended before my eyes and I read, 'For we know that all things work together for good for those who love the Lord' (Romans 8:28), and I felt strengthened," she told me.

***Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.* John 8:32**

After being tortured and imprisoned for six months she was released and returned to teaching in a government school. However, it was not long until she was imprisoned again. This time the Lord strengthened her with the words in John 8:32: "Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free."

The third time she was imprisoned the Lord gave her the promise in Jeremiah 29:13-14, "You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you, declares the Lord, and will bring you back from captivity."

She spent a total of two years in a political prison. "What did you do that you were imprisoned?" I asked. I could not imagine that a little, lame mite of a person such as Grace, could be a danger to the government. She had lived on the edge of town with a blind brother and a young niece.

"I was doing something, and they had a reason to take me," she replied with an 'I'm not telling' look on her face, and changed the subject.

"Do you remember when I was so mad

at you for making me go to evening classes?" she asked. "I'm glad now that you were hard on me, because if I had not continued my education I would not have been able to continue teaching."

Because she had been able to continue working she had been able to build a little two-room house with a handkerchief-size garden. She was anxious that we see and admire her little home and the garden in which she was growing tomatoes, herbs and a few flowers. Everything was immaculate. Her niece was living with her and they insisted on sharing their meagre meal with us.

***For we know that all things work together for good for those who love the Lord.* Romans 8:28**

As we made our way over the rough ground to the bus stop my heart was full of praise that the Lord had sustained her through the war years and given her such a strong faith.

"They beat me on my feet, but I can still walk!" Yes, she could still walk physically, but even more important, she was still walking spiritually with the Lord.

"I"- Witness

By request of the person whose story this is, no names will be used, but because of its inspirational impact, I have been given permission to write it.

So let's tell it in her words: "I woke up early one morning," she says "with a heavy sense of foreboding. Something either was wrong, or something bad was going to happen."

My friend is a deeply committed Christian. She accepted Christ many years ago when her children were small. She had been left a widow when her oldest child, was five years old, and was blind. Her other two children were three and one.

Now her children are all grown up and she has three grandchildren, aged four, two and eleven months.

She had this ominous feeling that something was going to happen, so as she does in all such crises, she prayed, "Oh God, let your angels surround this house with love."

Then she went back to sleep. Later in the morning, the cause of her foreboding became evident.

Her two-year-old grandson, had awakened early, and being a naturally investigative child, he had managed to drag one of his toys to the window of the room, opened the window, and climbed out on the roof.

As he was pattering around on the roof, a neighbour across the street saw him, and immediately went over to the house, and roused the household to the danger in which their child had placed himself.

My friend knew then that God had surrounded the house with his angels to protect the children and others who occupied it.

God and his angels are always there when we need them, and ask for their protection.

Kay Berry,
Richmond, B.C.

In a World Brimming with Despair

by Art White

Before pronouncing the benediction on our worship, Professor William Zurdick, a Dutch Pastor who served in the resistance against Hitler, would charge us seminarians:

Confirm your faith in a life filled with love; be aware of the responsibility of your church in a world which, on this day, is brimming with despair; and go from this place, seeking to bring the love of Christ to everyone you meet...

The bumper sticker said, MY MOTHER-IN-LAW'S CAR IS A BROOM. I wondered what kind of a man would choose to make such an announcement to the world? I also wondered about his wife. Was she there when he picked it out? Did he ask, "Wouldn't this go nice on the truck?"

Impatiently, I swung in behind their vintage pick-up after it waited so cautiously-long for oncoming traffic to clear. Floppy grocery bags and a 12-pack of Moosehead Ale shared the wooden box with a rat's nest of fish net, bald tires and other sundries fit for the dump. Smoke poured from a dented muffler swinging loosely in its cradle of wire and rusty strapping.

What's with this guy, poking along, chatting up a storm with a woman I took to be the daughter of the mother on the bumper sticker?

He wasn't chatting, I could see that now. He was yelling: mouth open for emphasis, lips hard-set. His shoulders were heaving the way shoulders do when you yell. He was pointing and nudging, flipping his hand around, shaking his head, hardly ever looking at the road, shouting at her, carrying on. He was some mad! She never looked at him, never....

I turned on my lights: hoping he'd see me and pull over; hoping he'd see me and pay attention to the road; hoping he'd stop yelling.

His attention did turn momentarily when the front tire left the pavement and rattled along the uneven shoulder, but soon enough he was back to ragging in her face.

She seemed small (perhaps she was scrunched down on the bench seat). I saw only the side of her face and her left shoulder. She wore a dark coat and scarf, her hair, also dark, rounded smoothly in silhouette. He wore a black and red checked jacket, too short in the sleeves, and dug, every now and again, at a clump of unkempt hair beneath his blaze-orange cap.

The truck angled across the double yellow. He wasn't watching. A small car tooted brashly as it swerved to avoid them. The woman pursued the sound of its course over her shoulder and said something as he righted the steering and flashed his indicators for an upcoming left turn onto Parker Mountain Road.

I saw her lips moving. She was younger than I had imagined. Her eyes caught mine for an instant before he shoved her face forward, holding a threatening finger to her cheek, ranting all the while.

I had been drawn to this drama like a voyeur, but now I was fed up. No, I was angry! All this was closer to cruelty than I cared to go. I felt trapped, in a way, unable to assist. I turned my lights to high, as if that would help....

About the time I did, I saw his arm swing across the cab and smash the woman full in the face, knocking her head against the tri-part window between us. (Snap!) Revulsion filled my riveted attention with a mega dose of

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

—John 14:27

endocrine chemistry. I found myself light-headed, numb, my palm hard-pressed against the horn button, letting its annoying blare police this brute-assault and in some sense vent my own outrage.

I surprised myself. I wasn't helpless after all. I didn't let up on the horn. I wouldn't. I couldn't....

His brake lights flashed. He wheeled around in an instant, his ruddy face filled with riot. He stared right into me, we were that close. The truck slowed to turn across traffic, sped through the intersection and slid to a stop at the far corner. I pulled over to stand vigil, never letting up on that strident horn. My arm was shaking, I had held it so long. It served as righteous salve to my stubborn anger.

The driver's door burst open with a force sufficient to nearly shut itself on the rebound. He elbowed it open a second time, stumbled out, turned slowly for a second as if to get his bearings, then stepped deliberately in my direction. He was unsteady. His motions were that of a drunk: ungainly and inefficient, almost comical on retrospect, although certainly menacing at the time.

Wildly slurring churlish threats, he entered the line of traffic heedless of several vehicles which swerved to miss him. He was burly but not tall, endowed with an upper bulk tapered to a spindly waist, which put me in mind of drumstick with clothes. He moved with difficulty, leaning forward as if into a windstorm, his arms hanging loosely, two fingers on each hand pointing oddly toward the ground....

I released the horn and engaged the clutch at the same time. He stopped in his tracks and looked with consternation as I drove away. We "connected" in that quick moment, exchanging silent declamations face-to-face. I can still feel it.

As I can still feel the impact of the next sight in the corner of my eye: their truck was moving! The old truck was moving away from the intersection where he stood fist-shaking into my mirror. Who would have believed it? She had summoned courage and taken charge. I cheered aloud and raised a salute for small victories against despair ... until the greater consequences of her world's reality began to sink in.

I thought about that nameless woman all day long, and prayed for her well into a restless night....

Confirm your faith in a life filled with love; be aware of the responsibility of your church in a world which, on this day, is brimming with despair; and go from this place, seeking to bring the love of Christ to everyone you meet...

- William Zurdick

The New Jerusalem

A Puzzle

by Jim Phillips

C A J A C I N T H O E
A H X H J L S S M S R
R N R Y I Y K H A O I
N J I Y H D T R G R H
A Z W T S U P M A P P
L G E O G O L D T J P
I M L N S T L D E A A
A L Y Y A O C I G S S
N E R X V P B E T P N
F H E D L A R E M E F
C K B B C Z P E A R L

JASPER
AGATE
ONYX
CHRYSOLITE
TOPAZ
JACINTH
PEARL (GATES)
SAPPHIRE
EMERALD
CARNALIAN
BERYL
CHRYSOPRASE
AMETHYST
GOLD (STREETS)

THINK TANK

From February 21 to 25 the **Think Tank,** mandated by the 121st General Assembly, will meet in Jackson's Point on Lake Simcoe to focus on the future shape of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. Between 70 and 80 people will come together to share their assessment of the present and their vision for the future. They have been chosen from nominations by the Presbyteries and the commissioners to the General Assembly and represent a good range of age, occupation and view-point.

The **Think Tank** will be directed by Dr. John Savage, founder and President of L.E.A.D. Consultants Inc. and a United Methodist minister, who was the featured speaker at the Presbyterian Congress in Winnipeg in 1987.

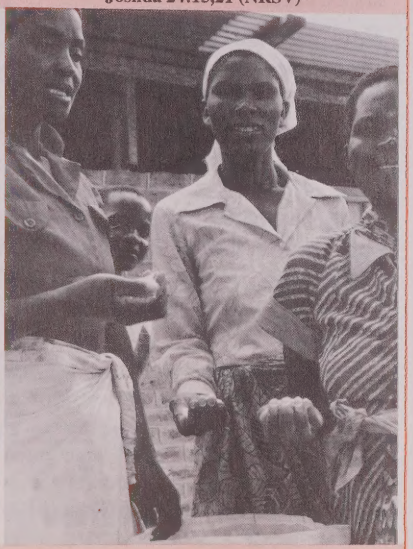
Dr. Savage sees us as a "church which is stuck", a church which finds itself in "desert time", caught between what was - which we are reluctant to give up - and what is yet to be - which is far from clear. The **Think Tank** will focus on the pain of our situation and on creative ways to move the Church forward.

Please pray for all involved in this adventure, that they may truly be Spirit-led and able to discern what new thing God has in store for our denomination.

Rosemary Doran,
Member, Think Tank
Steering Committee

Presbyterian World Service & Development

"Choose this day whom you will serve." "We will serve the Lord."
Joshua 24:15,21 (NRSV)



Many women and young girls in Malawi carry the responsibility for child raising, farming and food preparation. PWS&D's partners there are helping these women to learn about nutrition, and to improve the diet and health of their families.

For more information or to make a donation contact

PWS&D, 50 Wynford Drive, North York, Ontario M3C 1J7 Tel (416) 441-1111 Ext. 252

CELEBRATING YOUTH :and Children!

Crafts...

How to re-use greeting cards

What happens to the used greeting cards many groups send to missionaries?

"The use of the cards is only limited to the imagination of the person in whose hands they fall," says CBIM missionary Graciela Ellen. She shares some of the 101 ways she uses them in children's work in Cochabamba, Bolivia - ideas that could also work in Canadian Sunday School or children's groups:

Scripture text bookmarks are very easy to make. Cut two same-size strips from the front of a card. On one strip cut away any text, and make a "window" large enough for your verse, trimming around the art-work to make a nice design. Print a Bible verse on the back of the other strip, so that it will fit in the window when strips are together back to back. Glue strips together.

Emergency sewing kits make much-appreciated gifts for the family. Cut out shape (pattern at right is 2/3 actual size) from a heavy card. Cut out a small rectangle of cloth and attach as shown. Insert pins and needles. Wind lengths of different-coloured thread around zigzag tab, tucking thread ends under. Print a scripture verse in bottom section. Decorate with markers. Fold on dotted lines, and tuck zigzag tab under notch to close.

- Adapted with permission from *The Link & Visitor*, October 1992.

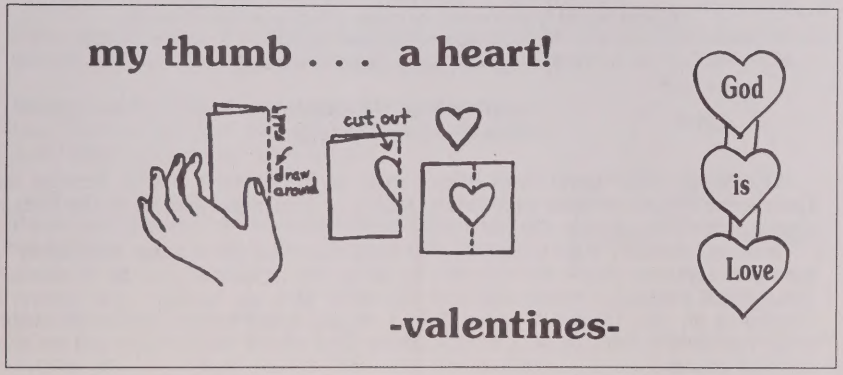
THREAD
WRONG SIDE OF CARD
CLOTH
GLUE HERE . . . . . .
If you remain in me
and my words remain in you,
ask whatever you wish
and it will be given you.
John 15:7

Reminder:
We need a new logo for the "Celebrating Youth and Children" page, something that reflects children and youth today. Send your suggestions camera-ready, if possible, to Glad Tidings as soon as possible.

Valentine Punch

1 litre strawberry or raspberry sherbet mixed with 2 litres of pop (i.e. Sprite, 7-up, Lemon-lime). Scoop sherbet into a large bowl. Slowly pour in pop, ladle into cups and enjoy. Pretty and tasty!

Make "thumb" Valentine shapes for a 'GOD is Love' hanging.



Toss Candy Hearts

Have the group take turns trying to toss 5 candy hearts into an empty bottle (large opening) from a distance of about 8 feet. Have several groups if lots of people playing.

Heart Puzzle

Mix the children with their guests into groups of two or three. Give each a large heart cut into four pieces. Have them put their heart together and read out loud their message.

i.e.

GOD is LOVE
LOVE YOUR NEIGH-BOUR
HELPING OTHERS
THANK YOU GOD

-Reprinted from B.C. SPECIAL, JANUARY 1995.

Mission Today*: Introducing an Educational Focus

At its Annual Council Meeting the Women's Missionary Society budgeted for a $150,000 grant to the Life and Mission Agency in 1996 - approximately 13% of the total budget.

At the same meeting the Council identified the following as the Educational Focus 1996. The following ministries provide an example of what $150,000 would cover in the L&MA budget.

Canada Ministries

Unionville, New Church Development
Portuguese Presbyterian Church, Toronto
North West Vancouver Korean Presbyterian Church
Saskatoon Native Circle
Tyndale-St.George's, Montreal

International Ministries
United Mission to Nepal

The WMS joins hands with others such as Presbyterian World Service and Development in its mission endeavours, taking on challenges that affect the lives of people across this country and around the world.

What is a partner? Marc Gellman in his book *Does God Have a Big Toe*+, says, "A partner is someone you work with on a big thing that neither of you can do alone. If you have a partner, it means that you can never give up, because your partner is depending on you. On the days you think I am not doing enough and on the days I think you are not doing enough, even on those days we are still partners and we must not stop trying..."

Here's a way to introduce an educational focus to your group in line with the WMS grant of $150,000 to the Life and Mission Agency. Leaders should read the entire program through carefully before planning an event for their group.

Bible Study: Romans 15:1-6 (NRSV)

We who are strong ought to put up with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves. [2]Each of us must please our neighbor for the good purpose of building up the neighbor. [3]For Christ did not please himself; but, as it is written, "The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me." [4]For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. [5]May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, [6]so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

+PARTNERS, Does God Have a Big Toe? *Marc Gellman, Harper & Row.*

***Thanks to Margaret Greig for this idea.**

Background: Romans is a letter of **hope**. See the reference in verse 4. When you think of all the adversity found in Biblical stories, you realize that it is always accompanied by hope. That is the 'gift' that the scriptures give us - stories of people who did not give up, people who were helped by God.

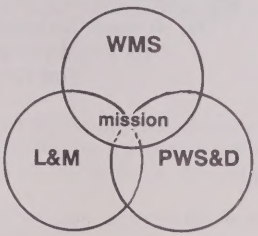
Pause and Discuss: What does the Romans' passage say to us in times of social and economic disruption?
What is meant by the phrase "ought to put up with" in verse 1?

Background: Study as many different translations as you have available to expand on the expression "ought to put up with". The RSV says "ought to bear with the failings". A note in the NRSV Annotated Bible says "should bear patiently burdens laid on them by the failings of the weak".

The Harper's Bible Commentary notes the word *strong* in verse 1 and comments that this is the only time Paul ever distinguishes some Christians from others as being strong.

Pause and Discuss: Where does this strength come from and how does it apply to us today? Talk together about how this is acted out in your group and congregation.

Background: Look at the words of the last verse... *so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.*



Pause and Discuss: What perception of "one voice" do we have?

Hand in Hand in Mission

When we contribute to the Women's Missionary Society (WMS), Presbyterian World Service and Development (PWS&D), and Presbyterians Sharing, we are contributing to the mission of the Presbyterian Church in Canada (PCC), a mission that is global in nature. The Church used to 'send' missionaries to various parts of the world and across this country and for many years this was the practice of the WMS as well. By the 1960's the work of the WMS and the church was becoming more and more integrated and inevitably major reorganization took place as well as major changes in our understanding of mission.

Mission today has moved away from the "sender/receiver" model towards a partnership model. Networking has developed among agencies, churches and societies like the WMS. Partners across Canada and throughout the world indicate their need and the PCC and its partner agencies seek ways to provide assistance in meeting the need. All the partners, those in Canada and those in other countries, take responsibility for mission and service. Sometimes one partner takes greater responsibility, sometimes another.

Pause and Discuss: Looking back at the opening verse of Romans 15:1, the phrase *We who are strong...* gives the impression of unequal partners — a "we/they"

approach.
In what way does our understanding change with the following paraphrase: *Those* who are strong...?
Partners who receive financial and/or personnel assistance from us, whether they be in Canada or other countries, have strengths that can assist our weakness.
What might some of their strengths and some of our weaknesses be?

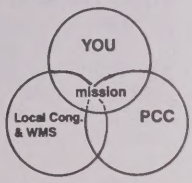
Mission Today
Presbyterians Sharing through the Life and Mission Agency (L&MA) has partners in mission across Canada and internationally:

- New Church Development;
  - Ministries such as Town, Rural and Remote, Ethnic, Francophone, Korean, Inner City and Transitional Congregations, Aboriginal Peoples, Refugees;
    - Regional Field Staff;
  - Loans and Grants;

and internationally with the following partners:
The Korean Christian Church in Japan;
The Presbyterian Church in Taiwan;
The China Christian Council;
The Church of North India;
The United Mission to Nepal;
The Middle East Council of Churches;
The Baptist Convention of Nicaragua;
Soynica, Nicaragua;
Diaconia, Guatemala;
The Guyana Presbyterian Church;
The Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (Malawi);
The Presbyterian Church of East Asia (Kenya);
The Presbyterian Church in Nigeria;
The Presbyterian Church in Mauritius;
The Presbyterian Church in Mozambique;
Lesotho Evangelical Church;
Evangelical Church of South Africa;
and Zaire Mission Aviation Fellowship.

PWS&D has development partners in Central America, East and Southern Africa and India. These partners receive the largest portion of PWS&D funds and Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) grant moneys. Each of these areas has one person appointed to the PWS&D Committee as a voting member. A small portion of the contributed funds goes toward sole funded projects in various parts of the world. In these cases, no CIDA funds are used. PWS&D also handles relief funds and has some matching CIDA funds for this. Exposure Tours and Congregational Initiatives are also supported by PWS&D.

Council and Council Executive meetings, Christian Literature and Grants & Bursaries. Approximately thirty-five percent of the General Fund is combined with funds from the L&MA through the Comptroller's office to pay salaries, benefits and expenses of Regional Staff throughout the Synods/Synodicals of the Presbyterian Church in Canada.



Closure
Divide the group in two and read the Romans passage:

Group A: *We who are strong ought to put up with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. Each of us must please our neighbor for the good purpose of building up the neighbor.*

Group B: *For Christ did not please himself; but as it is written, "The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me." For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope.*

Group A: *May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant that you may live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Hymn: #493 B.P. Help us to help each other, Lord

Prayer: God of all hopefulness dwell within us, strengthening us to reach out to others, whether they be next door or on the other side of the world. As we learn about the ministries listed in our Educational Focus 1996, help us to think of the people involved and pray for their well being.

Let your blessing rest upon each of us that we may reflect your glory to the world.

- Pictured above are Presbyterian staff currently serving in Nigeria: left to right, David Onuoha, Arlene (Randall) Onuoha, Dennis Single, Donald MacKay and Peggy Reid.

Using the theme, "God Calls us to Respond," Christian women of Haiti have prepared the World Day of Prayer service for March 1, 1996.

Haiti, the world's first Black independent republic, has in this century suffered from military occupancy, internal political repression, natural disasters and widespread poverty. Nevertheless, the return of democratically-elected President Jean-Bertrand Aristide in 1994 was cause for hope among the people.

World Day of Prayer is a global, ecumenical movement of "informed prayer and prayerful action." On the first Friday in March each year, people in over 170 countries participate in a common service in their own locality. Services are translated into hundreds of languages and dialects.

In Canada, the World Day of Prayer is sponsored by the Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada. Members of the national council are drawn from the following denominations: African Methodist Episcopal, Anglican Church of Canada, Baptist Federation of Canada, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, Mennonite, Presbyterian Church in Canada, Religious Society of Friends, Roman Catholic Church, Salvation Army and the United Church of Canada. In many Canadian communities, other denominations are also involved.

Offerings from the services in Canada are used to support the work of Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada in ecumenism, spirituality, human rights and issues of special concern to women. They also cover the costs of printing and distributing materials and to support projects in Canada and abroad. Among the overseas projects supported by the 1995 World Day of Prayer offerings were: a handicraft project to provide employment in Cap Haitien, Haiti; work among poor and homeless young women in Cristalina, Brazil; training for indigenous women in San Lucas, Guatemala; an agricultural project in Omboga, Kenya; humanitarian relief for war widows and orphans in Burundi; production of resources by WomenChurch, Seoul, Korea; and a women's gathering in Tuvalu, South Pacific.

In Canada, World Day of Prayer grants from Women's Inter-Church Council helped with production of worship resources by Micah Institute of Calgary; support for the Annual Vesper Service of Canadian Girls in Training; support for planning a celebration of the Ecumenical Decade of Churches of Solidarity with Women; and a grant to Innu women in Labrador to raise awareness of the impact of low-level flight testing on their communities and on the environment.

Other Canadians work carried out in the past year by Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada includes co-sponsoring a women's gathering in Gambo, Newfoundland; hosting overseas delegates at a meeting of the International Fellowship of the Least Coin in Vancouver; fostering networking among women in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia; distributing materials on violence against women; and preparing letters in support of victims of human rights abuses.

Write or phone: WICC, 815 Danforth Avenue, Suite 402, Toronto, ON M4J 1L2. Tel: (416) 462-2528.

Congress '96

In the name of

Jesus

MOUNT ALLISON UNIVERSITY
SACKVILLE, NEW BRUNSWICK
May 31 - June 2, 1966

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Kenneth Stright
P.O. Box 254
Pictou, NS, B0K 1H0
Phone: 902-485-5014
Fax: 902-755-2055

Plan now to attend and participate in

Worship

Bible Study

Storytelling

You will

Renew Friendships

Make New Friends

Discover living in the name of Jesus

Storytellers will help us reflect on doing

Business **Play** **Justice** **Worship**

Open House

Jesus, I don't have china rich and rare
Crystal goblets and polished silverware.
My linens aren't spotless You can see
And a fancy cook I just cannot be.
But I have a teapot and plenty of toast
And You, Lord, can teach me to be a host.
Open my heart, then open my door
Help me to seek out people more and more.
For it's over the chips and scratches that show
Your love and healing and blessings flow.

Joan Bond

From "365 Ways to Keep Your Love Alive" 1995 block calendar published by Zondervan Publishing House.

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IS THIS YOUR IDEA OF A GOOD TIME, GOD? *by Ralph Milton. Published by Wood Lake Books. Price $19.95.*

"As a lay people, we have lost the Bible. We've lost the confidence to read it for ourselves; we've lost the courage to argue with it. So it sits on the shelves of our homes gathering dust."

"The Bible is the single most important book in the Christian world," says Ralph Milton. We need to have scholars and theologians doing in-depth biblical studies and interpretations so that we might have a greater understanding of its content. But before getting into such serious study, he suggests that "First, you fall in love." We need to read the Bible stories, enjoy them, and let them speak to us. He elaborates on this refreshing new approach to Bible study in his latest book, *Is This Your Idea of a Good Time, God?*

In order to "take back the Bible", we must put ourselves into the biblical stories - to imagine how Leah felt when Jacob realized he had married her instead of Rachel, to understand Potiphar's wife's account of the incident with Joseph, or to listen to a passionate discussion between Abraham and God. When we read the stories in this manner, we see people much like ourselves - people who laugh, cry, work hard, dance, and deal with everyday problems.

To assist us with this task, Milton has paraphrased 23 stories from the Bible. He explains the circumstance that prompted him to write the piece, and uses his talent for story-telling to create another tale about the biblical text. The Study Guide at the end of the book offers several different ideas for using the materials.

Although this book can be read for personal devotions, the format is one that encourages discussion and the sharing of ideas. It is an excellent resource for any study group looking for "a new way to enjoy the Bible."

Laurie Wright

HYMNS WE LOVE TO SING *edited by Alan C. Whitmore. Published by Wood Lake Books. Price $9.95.*

This songbook of "111 Favorites in Large Print" was compiled as the result of "numerous requests of parish clergy and health care professionals". They expressed a need for something light-weight and useful in "congregations, hospitals, care facilities, funeral homes, and for personal use."

Hymns We Love to Sing contains words only and is easy to read for those who have difficulty reading regular-sized print. This collection of intergenerational hymns is grouped thematically with "hymns for each major season of the church year." It contains such favorites as *Joy to the World, The Old Rugged Cross, How Great Thou Art, Tell Me the Stories of Jesus* and many more. There is a Table of Contents in the back of the book listing all the hymn titles.

In the foreword, Rev. Marilyn Hunter, Manager, Chaplaincy Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Toronto speaks about the patients who make up the ecumenical worshipping community at the hospital. She says that hymns were meaningful to the patients and created a sense of peace. ... "these people were supported by the words and music of

hymns capable of inspiring hope and nourishing the need to commune with their God."

Hymns We Love to Sing would make a nice gift for someone in a nursing home or a shut-in who needs words of their favorite hymns in large print.

Katherine Allen

ZACCHAEUS *by Marty Rhodes Figley. Illustrated by Cat Bowman Smith. Published by Wm. B. Eerdmans Co. Price $14.99.*

Something wonderful happened to a little man by the name of Zacchaeus. He was a very rich man but he had no friends because he was so mean that he would take candy from a baby, steal an old man's coat, wouldn't feed his pets and, as a tax collector, he would collect extra money from the people which he would keep for himself.

One day there was great excitement in his town – Jesus was coming! Everyone wanted to see him, even Zacchaeus. Now Zacchaeus was very short so he decided to climb to the top of a tall sycamore tree so that he could peek out over the crowd and look at this great person. Everyone waited in expectation – Jesus was coming!

When Jesus came to the very tree where Zacchaeus was, he stopped and called out, "Zacchaeus, climb down and hurry. I am going to stay at your house today!" Zacchaeus was very surprised and happy that he was going to have a guest at his house! The crowd couldn't believe their ears – Jesus was going to the home of this man who was so mean and didn't have any friends.

Zacchaeus scrambled down from the tree and took Jesus to his large house. What happened after that changed Zacchaeus' life forever. Read this book to find out how Jesus helped this mean man become a happy person with many friends.

This book tells a well-known story in an interesting and attention-keeping manner with beautiful, colourful illustrations which help to explain what is to happen next or what is to be expected.

Margaret MacDonald

MORE THAN GLUE AND GLITTER *by Debbie Trafton O'Neal. Published by Augsburg Fortress, Minneapolis. Price $16.25.*

An activity book written for volunteer teachers which helps them to prepare and organize a one-hour program, keeping children from two to 14 interested in faith stories, projects, crafts and games. An excellent resource book for the non-trained or non-professional teacher. It contains excellent ideas for discipline and classroom management especially for children with special needs.

This book also contains how-to-make recipes for coloured finger paints, paste and play dough. Chapters that deal with motivation, involvement with the congregation and the family, and various teaching options will benefit the teacher. A most suitable teacher's aid to keep a student's interest within the church school setting.

Margaret McGillivray

RAISING PEACEFUL CHILDREN IN A VIOLENT WORLD *by Nancy Lee Cecil with Patricia L. Roberts. Lura Media Inc. San Diego, California. 1995. Price $23.95.*

This book is an exciting option for parents looking for ideas and approaches to raise children in constructive and affirming ways. It is also for parents looking for fun and meaningful ways to share time, feelings and interesting activities with their children and youth.

The author, an educator, wrote this book out of personal frustration, as a parent of a daughter, living in a violent world. Her objectives were to enable parents to look at their parenting style, and learn some practical ways to establish a peaceful, positive environment in the home. Thus, the book begins with reflective questions about how they parent, communicate, and perceive themselves.

Dr. Cecil provides helpful activities for parents and children, namely, to share feelings and ideas, to listen to each other's feelings and ideas, to make family posters, and other such low-cost activities. As she

introduces an activity, Dr. Cecil includes concise, understandable explanations about healthy self-esteem in people, and how that is developed and enhanced.

The book has three major sections: PEACEFUL COMMUNICATION: ways to affirm the other, peaceful conflict management/resolution, peaceful-compatible discipline approaches, positive racial attitudes, and non-sexist attitudes toward gender roles; PEACEFUL ENTERTAINMENT: co-existing with television, alternatives to war toys, games, movies, books, etc; PEACEFUL RELATIONSHIPS: at home, with extended family members, with the world beyond their immediate community. Included at the back of this marvellous book, is an extensive Bibliography and focus of each suggested resource.

This book has significance for parents, children and youth. It also has great significance for those who lead groups for children and youth, and the larger community.

Marg Read

RESOURCES RELATED TO THIS ISSUE OF GLAD TIDINGS

G4382 - Prayers for Help and Healing by William Barclay. "I hope that this little book may do something to bring peace and comfort to those who are going through any difficult time in body, mind, or spirit." - Wm. Barclay. $11.25

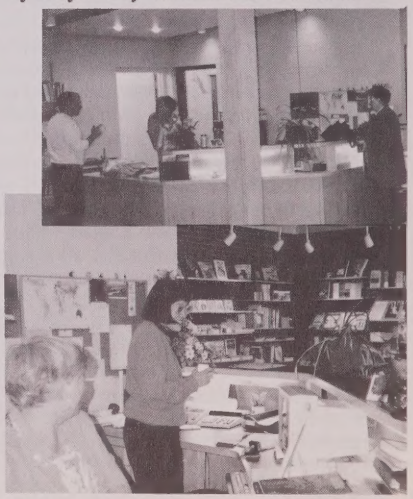
G4319 - Is This Your Idea of a Good Time, God? Discovering Yourself in Biblical Stories by Ralph Milton. $19.95 (see review)

G5191 - Addiction and Grace: Love and Spirituality in the Healing of Addictions by Gerald May. $15.00

G5417 - Two Tracks - One Goal: How Alcoholics Anonymous Relates to Christianity by Cal Chambers. $12.95

G5293 - Dancing with Dinosaurs: Ministry in a Hostile and Hurting World by W. Easum. $17.75

G5722 - Sacred Cows Make Gourmet Burgers: Ministry Anytime Anywhere By Anyone by William Easum. $19.25



The Presbyterian Church building at 50 Wynford Drive was rededicated October 31, 1995 following the completion of extensive renovation. In the photo to the left Tom Gemmell, Peter Ruddell, Dr. Alan McPherson, Moderator of the 121st General Assembly, and Ray Hodgson led in worship.

Above Dorothy Ruddell (left) and Judy Lee (right) enjoy the new Book Room space.

James 2:24 says *"you see that a person is justified by what he does and not by faith alone."*

A few years ago many of you completed a Finance Questionnaire seeking methods of increasing revenue and/or decreasing expenditures. It is interesting to review the replies as we commence a new year facing the same challenges.

A number of people felt that there was just too much paper with duplication in several areas. If the problem still exists, please let the office know about it.

The question of our grant to what is now the Life and Mission Agency received many diverse opinions - some called for elimination, some asked for an increase and some for a decrease. One comment suggested that we meet this commitment personally within our own congregations through our givings at home. Unfortunately, through the past few years the Society has been forced to decrease the amount given to the Life and Mission Agency.

Reduction of staff is happening - we did not replace the Children and Youth Secretary; and the three positions of Executive Secretary, Program Secretary and Support Staff positions are being combined into two positions. The coming year will see adjustments being made by the remaining staff. Our prayers are needed to support these people as they meet the challenges presented to them.

The question of increasing income was answered in most cases by having increased membership. One suggestion was for a "New Member Secretary" position within groups. Presumably this person would encourage others to actively recruit participants. Do you have new congregational members or persons who have recently retired that might enjoy being a part of your group? The WMS offers interesting and informative programs as well as fellowship and challenging goals!

There were interesting suggestions to encourage givings and also money raising ideas. Have you considered a "home box" with a coin being placed in it if you receive a happy phone call, if the sun shines; conversely if it rains or if you have a prayer answered? The cost of a cup of coffee, the cost of a hair-do once every three months, a donation basket at coffee hours, take-out cold plates in summer, make believe teas, phantom bake sales, and loonie cards were among the ideas submitted - as one person wrote "anything legal and viable, but not lotteries."

One idea put forth was that the Adult Secretary become a public relations person rather than just one who dispatches and receives reports. This would probably require a considerable time commitment from this person but it is a task that might be shared with the Literature Secretary.

Another opinion noted that home helpers are excellent resources. Has your group considered a "Parade of Missionaries" with members dressing as various missionaries and giving a story of the work being undertaken by that person? Do we encourage young workers' ideas? Should we personalize givings such as life membership donations? Are we making sufficient use of "In Memoriam" cards? One very optimistic member suggested making a video of the work that is being done.

The concordance states that "prayer is an offering up of our desires to God for things lawful and needful, with a humble confidence through the mediation of Christ, to the praise of the mercy, truth and power of God."

The overwhelming recommendation given in answer to the questions posed in the questionnaire was "Prayer" and that we can all do!

Marian Weldon, Treasurer

Romans 12:13 says *"Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality."*

Dear Friends

Denise van Wissen,
c/o SOYNICA,
Apdo. RP-05,
Managua, Nicaragua
July 1995

We're in the midst of yet another transport strike (May 1995). There are already three deaths from an early morning run-in last week between the police and strikers. So far it just seems to be dragging on with not a whole lot happening, perhaps because there are so many other issues at the forefront at the moment, including constitutional changes and frequent bombings of Catholic churches supposedly to divert attention away from those proposed changes. Politics permeates everything here.

The Soya Association of Nicaragua, better known as SOYNICA (a play-on-words of the Spanish "I'm Nicaraguan") is the Nicaraguan non-governmental organization to which I was appointed to work by International Ministries.

I work with the Health and Nutrition division of the Human Rights subprogram. My partner, a Nicaraguan nutritionist, and I are in charge of the monthly measuring of all the preschool children and infants in the Community Pot program. Since there are now over 25 programs in Managua alone and 17 in rural communities, this proves an impossible task for just the two of us.

We have trained women in most of the barrios to take the children's heights and weights themselves, and a group of assistants help out in the other barrios. Then begins the mammoth task of entering the data of these children in the computer - over 4,000 in all! Very fortunately, we aren't having the 4-8 hour/day electricity cuts anymore, but it's still hard to get access time on the computer.

(June 1995) All too typically the end of one strike heralds the beginning of another. This morning, the bus was delayed upon finding the street filled with students locked out of the UNAN (the university where I taught English for two years) because the administrative and other employees are on strike. Hundreds of campesinos (poor farmers) have arrived and are demanding valid title to their land.

(July 1995) All of the traffic now takes for granted the major detours three times a day due to the campesinos' demonstrations in the major thoroughfare.

I've had a new challenge this year, teaching at the UPOLI, a Polytechnical University here in the city. It's been most interesting to teach Nutrition to Nursing students.

A radio announcer this morning said it all when he stated the time, "It's quarter to seven for those who even care because despite the 70% unemployment rate they're lucky enough to have a job." The fellow was quite serious.

With love,
Denise

The Crosbys,
47 Hitchcock Avenue,
Rose Hill,
Mauritius, Indian Ocean
July 1995

It is only now, as we reach the end of our time of speaking and showing slides of the work of the church in Mauritius, that we realize that we should have been taking pictures all along our way. Why have we never thought of the need to go back to Mauritius and tell the story of what is going on in the church in North America? We can only think that it is because we are still caught up in the old parent-child, giver-receiver model of mission: accountability

works in one direction. People here pray regularly for the concerns of the church in Mauritius - do they not feel the need to be upheld in prayer by Mauritian Presbyterians?

This mentality was brought home to us as we attended a meeting in Toronto where a serious problem in one of our overseas partner churches was being discussed. A proposal was made to send a strongly-worded protest to the overseas church. We found ourselves wondering what would have been the reaction of the Presbyterian Church in Canada if an overseas partner church were to do the same about an action or situation in the church here! Perhaps we need to reflect more deeply when we use terms such as "Partners in Mission", "Presbyterians Sharing" and "Prayer Partners".

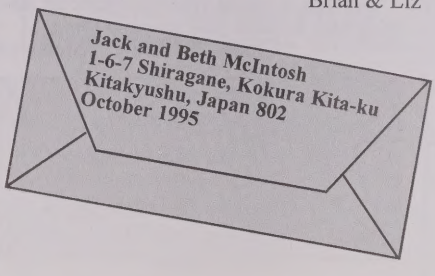
One of the stories we have been telling along our way has been of the contribution that a small and struggling Presbyterian Church of Mauritius has been able to make to the local community. The first Reformed Church missionary to Mauritius was the Rev. Jean Lebrun from Jersey in the Channel Islands, who arrived in 1814. He worked among the liberated slave people and, as well as churches and Sunday schools, he established the first free schools in the country. He is remembered by all the communities in Mauritius as one of the great pioneers of our society.

In our day, our church has taken the initiative in setting up an ecumenical theological education program for the lay people of the Anglican, Roman Catholic and Presbyterian churches. This program is thriving and we are sure that the Spirit has used our smallness and weakness to accomplish it.

As we travelled across western Canada telling the story of this work, many people were deeply interested in the concept of on-going theological education for lay people in Canada. In one town a Bible study group vowed to contact the leaders of the Anglican, Catholic and Lutheran churches to propose setting up a program: a subsequent letter from the group confirmed that the first contacts had been very positive. Mission can truly be a mutual sharing, can it not?

We wish you God's grace as you travel on.

Brian & Liz



Greetings from our new place of life and work in Kokura, here in the most westerly part of Kyushu, third largest of Japan's four main islands. We arrived back in Japan on March 23 after a full year's home assignment in Canada - and we emphasize "full"!

Along the way, we have always been aware that God is in the moving business, a real mover and shaker from the beginning. And yet, we were a little shaken when God did it again - moving us on and out to a new assignment in mission. Please note our new address as of July 27th, 1995.

To give you the barest of details about the switch from the Kansai commitment to this new challenge - the sudden death of Rev. CHOI Chang Hwa in February led to some emergency measures in the KCCJ which concluded in our new placement. We were glad that we had some time in Osaka to get mind and heart on the new track to everyone's satisfaction, and to share times of parting with the friends and partners of thirty years in the Kansai area. The call from the KCCJ's Seinan Presbytery came in May, and we were installed at the Presbytery meeting on June 16th, Jack as Presbytery minister-at-large in charge of Seinan Korean Christian Centre (SKCC) development; Beth as mission co-worker in women's work and congregational service. You will be seeing "S.K.C.C." often over the next few years, so please remember its

significance and the McIntosh connection. The Presbytery and Kokura Church (which Rev. Choi served for 34 years) refurbished the Kokura manse, and we have gradually gotten settled since moving here in July.

Shalom to you in your engagements, and blessings to those you love and serve.

Jack & Clarabeth McIntosh

Peggy Reid and Dennis Single,
c/o Presbyfarms Limited,
P. O. Box 2,
Itu, Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria
July 1995

Lots of things and people go by my door, but the information highway isn't one of them! There are the local neighbourhood kids looking for a biscuit; the police (who live and work 10 metres from our front door); people "visiting" the police; the local man selling palm wine (in varying stages of inebriation); his clientele (also in various stages of inebriation); women on their way to market; chickens, dogs and goats....

All of these go by my door each day, but what doesn't go by is the information highway. Oh, we do have roads that go by our door, but to call them "highways" might be a misnomer! There is the dirt road (which during the rainy season becomes a mud track) that leads to our house, and then there is the main village path to the side of our house, and a few hundred yards from us is the "main" (paved) road. So we are far from being "off the beaten track". We just aren't on the information superhighway.

Now I must admit, having lived outside of Canada for the better part of the last seven years, this term "information highway" does puzzle me somewhat. But I rather suspect it has to do with the vast array of information now available on computers, and accessible at a moment's notice...that is if you have a computer.

And I don't. Have a computer, that is. Actually the vast majority of the world's people don't have computers either. Come to think of it, they don't have electricity, so I rather guess this information superhighway is detouring their lives too. I wonder if we are missing anything? Somehow, I rather doubt it. For the majority of people with whom I work, a manual typewriter is the height of technology. Computers, software, Internet are just words and not at all relevant to their daily lives. And it seems to me that people here manage to get their priorities straight without the benefit of computer technology. They have a love for God (some fervent, some lukewarm...just like Canadians), and a deep sense of rootedness to their village. They have an "extended" family network that seems to know no limits, and one which baffles me completely. I didn't know one could have so many relatives!

Even our church manages to function without this information highway. We function without electricity, bulletins, an organ, hymn books, bathrooms (!!)...not even a children's story! And yet without all these things, our worship service still lasts well over two hours on an average Sunday! Goodness knows how long we would be worshipping if we had to contend with the material available from the information highway!

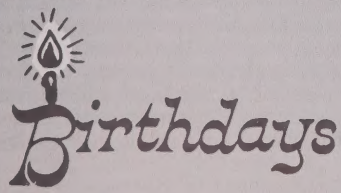
But we are not completely bereft of information here. It just comes via other routes. There is the village "crier" who goes through the village yelling at top voice of upcoming meetings, burials, etc. There is the "bush track" which relays information (both good and bad) by word of mouth and with such a speed that Bell Canada should investigate its possibilities.

And, of course, there is the more traditional postal system. However, I must admit that the latter is not proving very successful! We recently received an air mail letter that took six months to arrive here from Toronto. Just where does this mail "go" for six months? Does it get held in detention? re-routed via Iceland? come by canoe? The possibilities are endless! I just hope whoever is receiving all the mail that we should be getting is enjoying it as much

as we would!

As I sit and type this on my manual typewriter (that does not even have a self-correcting xxxx key) I glance across to incoming mail that I have received...beautifully typed on computers with differing typesets...differing sizes of print...and even some with computer drawn pictures. For certain the world of computers and the information superhighway is not going by my door. But as I look at all the people and activities who do go by my door and as I think of all the communication that has gone on without the benefit of phone or fax I am grateful for the "roads" that do pass by my door. For they have led me to new areas of faith and have helped us become part of God's community in this part of the world. It has been a gift.

Grace and peace from Nigeria,
Peggy Reid and Dennis Single



Overseas Staff

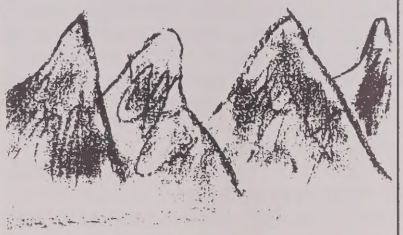
February
7 - Diana Wadsworth, India
12 - Ian Kent, Nepal
18 - Viola Duff, Central America
20 - Nan Budding, Nepal

March
1 Peggy Reid, Nigeria
8 - John Duff, Central America
18 - Doreen Morrison, India
27 - Margaret Vanderzweerde, India

Misty Mountains

High in the misty mountains
Crumpled snow surrounds me
Jelly glaciers and ice-cream snowflakes.
Giant cupcakes squashing me
The mountains look lonely
Just standing there coal black.
The sun starts to set
The sky turns orangey yellow.
As I stand there looking, I see the valley
Bright orange, shining yellow below,
muddy brown.
I feel proud to be up so high, standing
by the camp all alone.

Art and poem by Jenny Kent, Nepal



Address Corrections:

WHO? WHERE November/December 1995 Glad Tidings Under CENTRAL AMERICA on page 32 the address of Ken Kim should read 11 Ave. "A" 9-30 (instead of 8-49). The rest is correct.

Under Ordained Missionaries, *Synod of Alberta*, Rev. Dianne Ollerenshaw, Valleyview Presbyterian Church, the address should read: Box 15, Site 3, S.S. 3, and so on; under *Synod of Manitoba*... Rev. Deborah Lannon, Knox, Stonewall, should read Box 1425, Stonewall, MB R0C 2Z0; under Native Peoples - Anishinabe Fellowship Centre, the name should read Mr. Adrien Laquette, 287 Laura St. Winnipeg, MB R3A 1CA; also Ms *Denise* Manson, not Denis.

MRS. K. H. TING DIES

The director of the Canada China program, Cynthia McLean has reported the death on September 23, 1995 of Siu May Kuo (Mrs. K. H. Ting), following a long illness. Mrs. Ting was the wife of Bishop K. H. Ting of the China Christian Council.

Professor Siu May Kuo graduated from St. John's University, Shanghai, received her M.A. from Teachers College, Columbia University, New York, N.Y., USA and was awarded an honourary doctoral degree by Victoria University, Toronto, Canada. She was headmistress of St. Mary's Hall and later of the Second Girls' Middle School, both in Shanghai.

Transferred to Nanjing, she taught Education in Nanjing University for two years before joining its Department of Foreign Languages.

TUTU TO RETIRE

East London, South Africa, 6 September (ENI) - Desmond Tutu, the Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town, will retire in June next year, ending an era of prominent church leadership in South African politics and society.

An outspoken human rights advocate during the apartheid years and a Nobel Peace Prize laureate, Archbishop Tutu will leave Cape Town next year to spend a year on sabbatical leave at Emory University in Atlanta in the United States.

His media office, John Allen, told ENI that Archbishop Tutu might then spend another year in the US, as he had been invited to be visiting prelate at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C.

Archbishop Tutu, who has written several books, has another book contract and also plans to write a book about Christ's Transfiguration.

Archbishop Tutu has also been mentioned as a possible leader of South Africa's official truth commission which will investigate human rights violations by both the former apartheid regime and the anti-apartheid liberation movement, and then make reparations to victims.

In post-apartheid South Africa, Archbishop Tutu's role has changed significantly. Previously, he received extensive media coverage for his attacks on the apartheid regime. These days, however, he is quoted both on national issues and, frequently on more mundane matters. – Noel Bruyns

TELECARE ANNIVERSARY

On October 4th, 1995, Telecare Teleministries of Canada Inc., a network of telephone crisis centres across Canada celebrated their 30th anniversary. For thirty years Telecare has been a caring presence for people in distress and a listening ear for the troubled, the lonely and the confused. Telecare has been a lifeline for over three million telephone users.

In addition to callers, over 12,000 dedicated volunteers have completed a 50 hour training program. This is a world wide recognized program that prepares a volunteer to befriend a telephone caller. Just as important, the Telecare volunteers become a valuable resource within their community.

Many volunteers and financial contributions come from church-attending people from across Canada. At the time of the anniversary Mary Hardeman, the President of Telecare Canada, extended a sincere thank you to the many supporters of their organization.

Telecare Teleministries of Canada Inc. is unapologetically a ministry of the Christian Church. Its roots, both historical and theological, are within the Christian community in its most ecumenical expression.

Crisis-line services trace their roots to Alan Walker, a Methodist minister in Sydney, Australia, who started the first service, known as Lifeline, in that city in 1963.

minister, established the first Canadian Telecare centre in Sudbury in 1965, when the town's mining-based economy was in trouble. It was the first 24-hour telephone counselling service staffed by volunteers in North America.

Currently, there are 23 Telecare crisis-line centres operating across Canada, from Abbotsford, B.C. to St. John's, Newfoundland. Extended service is available to 36 remote areas in Northern Ontario as well.

Telecare Teleministries of Canada Inc. remains affiliated with Lifeline International.

NEWS – MISSION STUDY THEMES

LEWIS NAMED TO UNICEF SENIOR JOB

Stephen Lewis, former Ontario NDP leader and United Nations ambassador, has been appointed deputy executive director for external relations to the United Nations Children Fund, or UNICEF.

In his new job, he will effectively be the advocate for the world's children, providing the link between UNICEF and its external partners, such as governments and other agencies, Lewis said last night.

His role will be "information, communications and advocacy."

Lewis, 57, will be based in New York and travel extensively.

"It's a job of a lifetime. I am really anxious to get engaged in it."

UNICEF has as its mandate the protection of the health, education and nutrition of the world's children.

The organization has more recently begun to tackle the plight of children in such situations as war, poverty and prostitution.

Lewis said the new mandate was inspired by the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child. – Philip Mascoll, Toronto Star

UN URGED TO TAKE ON NEW ROLE

New York, 6 October (ENI) – Pope John Paul II has urged the United Nations to go beyond its institutional status to become "a moral centre".

The Pope, in an address to the UN's General Assembly on 5 October, said that the global necessity of such an organisation was "even more obvious" 50 years after its foundation. He praised the UN and in particular its Universal Declaration of Human Rights, made in 1948, but he urged the organisation to supplement its emphasis on individual rights with an affirmation of "the rights of nations".

In an address drawing heavily on his Polish heritage, Pope John Paul said that the Second World War "was fought because of violations of the rights of nations."

Mentioning Poland and other nations of Central and Eastern Europe, he said that the "so-called" people's democracies after the Second World War had lost their sovereignty when they were "required to submit to the will dominating the entire bloc" by being incorporated in the Soviet-dominated Warsaw Pact.

The Roman Catholic leader stressed the right of each nation to have its own culture. Polish culture, he said, had enabled his nation to survive the loss of its political and economic independence.

By becoming a moral centre, the Pope said, the UN could become a place where all nations felt at home and worked together as "a family of nations ... In an authentic family, the strong do not dominate. Instead, the weaker members, because of their very weakness, are all the more welcomed and served."

In contrast to the usual scattered attendance and casual attention given during General Assembly sessions, the main hall and attached galleries were crowded with delegates, visitors and reporters during the Pope's speech.

The UN Secretary General, Boutros Boutros-Ghali, a Coptic Orthodox Christian, also welcomed John Paul's presence as "a reminder of the spiritual dimension of

the United Nations."

Boutros-Ghali attributed "the horrors we witness today" to "crises of the spirit ... Terrible examples on every continent tell us that to deny our spiritual nature is to diminish our humanity ... It is to forget our God." – Tracy Early

CHURCH OF ENGLAND STILL 'POLARISED' ON WOMEN PRIESTS

London, 21 September (ENI) – Many priests who leave the Church of England because of the ordination of women priests prefer to leave the active ministry rather than serve in another church, a survey has found.

A survey of 50 priests who have left the church – one sixth of the estimated 300 clergy who have resigned so far – has confirmed that the Roman Catholic Church is the principal destination (56.5 per cent). But the survey also found that 21.7 per cent of priests were leaving the ministry entirely – to either retire or do other things.

Some priests from the Church of England are joining the Orthodox churches or breakaway Anglican-style churches - the Traditional Church of England and the Anglican Catholic Church.

In September, a researcher, Fabio Sani, of Exeter University, and a senior colleague, Stephen Reicher, presented to the British Psychological Society their findings from a series of interviews with clergy and laity over the ordination of women into the Church of England.

Speaking to ENI, Sani described feelings as "very polarised". Between opinions expressed before and after the first female ordinations in March 1994, there had been only a "tiny tendency" for opponents to soften their views.

He explained: "Opponents see women priests as not just dissonant, but so dissonant as to change the essence of the Church of England. Supporters, too, see the issue as affecting the essence of Christianity - that women priests allow the essence to be more fully accomplished."

The survey suggests that the Church of England's struggles with female ordination are far from over. - Cedric Pulford

CIRCULATION NEWS

Thanks to the Glad Tidings Secretaries and contact people for sending in the renewal lists and new subscribers' names in good time. As of November 30 there are 54 lists outstanding. The subscription lists were due November 1, so hopefully they will all be in soon as it is costly to send reminders.

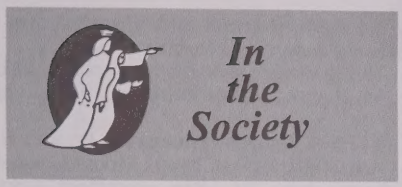
Promotion of the magazine does not end in December when all the subscriptions are renewed. It continues throughout the year, so please encourage others to read about the mission of the church. One way of promoting the magazine would be to display sample copies in your church library or narthex.

A Stand Up Display (11x17) along with five sample copies of the Glad Tidings is now available for $5.00, cheques payable to Glad Tidings. To order this display or if you wish extra copies of the magazine please write to the Glad Tidings Circulation Department.

If someone wishes to subscribe during the year, just send in the name and address and we will add their name(s) to the list. To determine the cost, use the following procedure: subscription rate divided by six ($1.40 a copy), multiplied by the number of issues remaining in the year. This means the subscription will run out in December as do others in the group.

Do you have any ideas about promotion of the Glad Tidings you would like to share with others? Please send them to the Glad Tidings office.

Katherine Allen,
Circulation Manager



SYNODICAL

Women - Our Heritage was the theme for the **Hamilton and London** Synodical June Camp Weekend held at Camp Kintail directed by Dorothy Neal. Delicious meals and treats were cooked by Lance and his crew of Councillors. Bible women were studied in detail under the direction of Fleur Eenkhorn. The women made bees wax candles in crafts led by Karen De Long.

Chris Evans led the music with her guitar and also conducted a fashion show.

The Wallaceburg women were in charge of the morning worship which was held each morning in God's great outdoors.

Margaret MacLennan of Glamis was honored for being the only one present who had attended every Camp since its beginning some 35 years ago.

Regional Staff Margaret Greig took us by slides and commentary to Central America. Singing, skits and games proved to be hilarious recreation throughout the weekend.

Sunday morning worship and communion service was led by Rev. Gwen Brown, Director of Camp Kintail and staff, and was held in the outside chapel where the birds joined the campers in song.

PRESBYTERIAL

Go and Tell was the theme for the Fall Rally of **Maitland** Presbyterial held in the Ashfield Presbyterian Church on September 11. Special speaker Margaret Vanderzweerde lives out that theme as she is preparing for her sixth trip to India. She shared her experiences with the use of slides.

Mayme Wilkins, Vice President, was in charge of the program. Rev. Ruth McLean of Bruce Beach played several Gaelic songs on her violin.

Marilynne Gilchrist of South Kinloss conducted worship, developing the theme with scripture from Matthew 10:42, saying how easy it is to give a glass of cold water.

Shirley McCall of Kincardine expressed appreciation to all and Ethel Baker of Molesworth closed with prayer.

Thirty women attended the Fall Rally of the **Brandon** Presbyterial held September 27 in Knox-Zion Church. Guest speaker was the minister of Knox-Zion, Rev. Joanne Slote. Her message and the workshop which followed were based on the need for change in the WMS as we approach the 21st century, and how we can each become missionaries in the true sense of the word.

West Toronto Presbyterial held its Fall Rally in St. Andrew's Humber Heights on September 27, the theme *Go out into the roads - and make them come in* (Luke 14:23). President Bev McWhinnie gave the call to worship following a welcome by Kala Roopnarine. Devotions were conducted by Winnifred Csulinski. Dorothy Hopper introduced speakers Gerry and Lorna Kent, home on furlough from Nepal who gave a very interesting account of their work.

During tea and fellowship, Dorothy Clark, Literature Secretary, reviewed books.

The Fall Rally of **Kingston** Presbyterial was held at Sandhill Church on September 20, the theme *Gossiping the Good News* (scripture from Luke 8:1).

Opening worship was taken by Sandhill women who also served lunch. Mildred Jackson, Literature Secretary introduced guest speaker June Stevenson, editor of the Glad Tidings. Her informative talk was enjoyed by all.

The Fall Rally of **Waterloo-Wellington** Presbyterial was held in the evening of September 25 at St. Andrew's Church, Mount Forest, Ontario with dessert and an

anniversary cake celebrating the 70th anniversary of the Glad Tidings, preceding the Rally.

The Rev. Donna Riseborough, minister of St. Andrew's welcomed everyone and Devotions were given by Thelma Switzer of St. Andrew's WMS.

A skit was presented on the history of the Glad Tidings followed by guest speaker June Stevenson, editor of the magazine who was introduced by Norah Glower. June gave a very informative and interesting talk on some of her experiences as Editor. She also had on display a mural depicting the history of the magazine.

Catherine Haas thanked the speaker and courtesies were given by Eileen Young. Donna Riseborough pronounced the benedictions.

The District #2 of the **London** Presbyterial met in Knox Church, St. Thomas, Ontario, the theme *Ambassadors of Christ - Anticipation* (scripture text Isaiah 2:4).

Muriel Stavert of Knox constituted the meeting with prayer and the WMS Purpose. Jean McKillop, Jean Stewart, Marion Orchard, Margaret Greig and Margaret McCullough gave an introduction to the current mission studies.

Other reports being given, Hazel Stalker and Cheryl Dinkel of the West Lorne WMS gave closing devotions. Dr. H. Rodney of Knox spoke briefly and closed with the benediction.

Bruce-Grey Presbyterial held its Fall Rally in Knox Church, Burgoyne, Ontario on September 21 with president Pat Carpenter presiding. Words of welcome were extended by Rae Salmon and the host minister Rev. Ted Nelson.

Margaret Greig, Regional Staff, introduced the 1995-1996 mission study themes and then conducted a "Visibility Workshop" on how to be more visible in our church and community.

The afternoon speaker was Margaret Vanderzweerde, South Asia Liaison for International Ministries of the Presbyterian Church, who gave an inspiring message on the work in health and education that is being done in North India.

The closing worship was conducted by Ida Human, Marion Perrie and Wyn Smith.

The Fall Rally of **Glengarry** Presbyterial was held in Knox Church, Moose Creek on September 20, 1995. President Lorna MacGregor conducted the meeting with Iva Bush as organist. Soloist was Maryanne Kampouris.

Sheila Paterson and Shelagh MacDougall offered prayers and Peg Ferguson read the scriptures. Theme for the rally was *Joy in Healing* with guest speaker Joy Randall, missionary nurse, home on furlough from Taiwan.

Annie MacRae, St. John's, Cornwall expressed appreciation to Joy for her presentation. Rev. Wallace MacKinnon, St. Elmo, closed with the benediction.

The Fall Rally of **Peterborough** Presbyterial was held September 13 at St. Andrew's Church, Lakefield, Ontario. Worship, based on the theme *Threatened with Resurrection* was presented by Alice Smart, Campbellford.

Guest speaker was Joy Randall of Cobourg, who was appointed in 1969 to serve as a nurse with the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan. She is presently on furlough.

Joy was introduced by Kass Whitefield, Cobourg, and thanked by Joan Smith, Port Hope.

Business was presided over by the president Jean Montgomery, Peterborough. Rev. Wm. Bynum, Lakefield, extended a welcome and also sang a solo.

The financial report was presented by treasurer, Jean Coull, Cobourg and the Book Report by Jackie Kelly, Norwood. Eleanor Grant, from Lindsay Presbyterial, gave an illustrated talk on the WMS Five-Year Plan.

Singing was led by Jackie Kelly and Helen King, Warkworth. Courtesies were presented by Peggy Allan, Havelock.

Sarnia Presbyterial Fall Rally with the

theme *Laughter & Loving* zeroing in on 'camping' was held October 17 at St. Andrew's, Corunna, Ontario. Welcomes were extended by WMS Presbyterial president, Bonnie Arbour and Rev. Philip Wilson, minister of the host church. Following a potluck supper special music was provided by the Thompson Gardens choir of Corunna. The Rev. Gwen Brown, director at Camp Kintail was guest speaker and closed with the serving of holy communion - camp-style.

Quebec Presbyterial Fall Rally was held September 25th at St. Andrew's Church, Sherbrooke, Quebec. Presiding was President Margaret Goodhue. Sarah MacDonald, president of Sherbrooke WMS welcomed members and guests. Theme for the day was *Cheers & Joy.*

Devotions were led by Joyce McLeod on "encouraging one another". Bible study with a visual lesson on encouragement was presented by Ann Blane. Nadine Fafard reported on the summer activities at Camp D'Action Biblique, Richmond, Quebec.

Following luncheon, Elizabeth Sandford led the group in joyful singing. Throughout the day we had fun with scripture as Nadine Fafard introduced the group to "Bible and Scripture Cheers".

The highlight of the Rally was missionary guest speaker, Joy Randall. She showed slides of Taiwan and shared her experiences in nursing. Thera Devries, Presbyterian Women's group, Melbourne, thanked Joy for her presentation and closed the meeting with prayer.

The Modern Church and its Influence on the World was the theme of the Fall Rally of **Stratford-Huron** Presbyterial held in St. Mary's Church with Pat White of Goderich presiding. Over sixty women registered for the rally.

Greetings were brought by the Rev. Dr. Rick Horst, minister of the church, and by Janet Gibson, president of St. Mary's WMS.

Following a hymn-sing led by Brian Emery, Cromarty, Marion Ritchie WMS led in the devotions based on Matthew 5:13, *Ye are the salt of the earth.* The meditation was given by Lillian Sparling, with Peggy Kerslake leading in prayer. The offertory prayer was given by Jean Carey. The roll call was answered by naming a tool or method used in mission.

Margaret Greig, Regional Staff introduced next year's mission studies.

The afternoon session began with another sing-song and a solo by Brian Emery. Elsie McKay gave a brief history of St. Mary's Church which came about with the amalgamation of Knox and First Churches.

Guest speaker, Wilma Welsh, International Ministries' staff, was introduced by Jean Edmunds. Wilma described how her trip to Central America has changed her life. She was thanked by Shirley Aitcheson.

LOCAL

On Sunday July 23, 1995, at the morning service in **Knox Church, Burlington**, Ontario two framed WMS In Memoriam certificates were presented to Frances Sherritt's two daughters - Patricia Sherritt and Donna Archer - by the afternoon WMS group and the Margaret Taylor Evening Auxiliary.

-Left to right, Margaret Weir, Carolyn Wilkins, Patrica Sherritt and Donna Archer. Inset: Frances Sherritt.

Frances died suddenly at the end of February. She was involved in all aspects at Knox - Pastoral Care, Session, Ladies Aid, Flower Committee, Sunday School, World Day of Prayer, etc. The groups especially wanted Frances' two daughters to know of the love and esteem they had for Frances and to say "thank you" for sharing her.

Over 75 people from the churches in **Calgary** met in **Chalmers Church**, enjoying supper together and then spending time with Pauline Brown. A wonderful, uplifting, joyful evening of learning about Pauline's work in community health in India, was enjoyed by all.

The offering of $350 was sent to the Life and Mission Agency of the Presbyterian Church to be used for community health work in the Vindhy Satpura area, Mendha, India.

Pauline also spoke to members and adherents in Grace Church, Calgary.

The Arvilla McGregor WMS Auxiliary of **Knox Church, Oshawa**, Ontario is celebrating 55 years of service in the congregation. To mark this anniversary, we decided to show our appreciation to Lynda Reid who is an active member of Knox, Oshawa.

Lynda has been employed by the WMS for many years. On April 1, 1995, she became Regional Education Consultant for the Synod/Synodical of Toronto and Kingston. She has willingly devoted much of her time to assisting the WMS in local groups, in presbyterial and in synodical with planning, leadership training, use of resources and procedure.

During the worship service on October 22, 1995, when Knox, Oshawa, was celebrating its 70th anniversary, the Arvilla McGregor Treasurer, Marjorie Wraith, and the President, Jean Dancey, presented an Honorary Life Membership certificate and pin to Lynda Reid. Jean outlined the purpose of the Women's Missionary Society, and the reasons the Arvilla McGregor Group decided to award the certificate and pin to Lynda.

The "joint was really jumpin' " at **Erindale Church** on September 27th, when a group of young people from **Brampton Presbytery** who had attended Presbyterian Youth Triennium at Purdue University during the summer, led the women in attendance at the Fall Rally in "Energizers". It had earlier been decided that this was to be a Fall Rally with a difference, and it certainly was!

It began with a guided tour to the beautiful addition which has been built on the host Church. Then a bountiful roast beef dinner was served by the women of Erindale congregation. After the young people got our attention, and prevented the lethargy which so often follows a delicious meal, they led us in worship, teaching us some new music, and recounting for us some of their impressions and experiences at Triennium. We were delighted to have them with us, sharing their stories and their enthusiasm, and demonstrating their willingness to help us to make our rally a success!

Guest speaker for the evening was Rev. Bob Smith of Thornhill, who showed slides and gave us some insight into the work of Presbyterian World Service and Development. We succeeded in one of our objectives, which was to include women who do not usually attend WMS functions, and show them a little bit of what we are all about.

The Afternoon Auxiliary of **St. Andrew's Church, Kitchener**, mourns the loss on September 22 of a very dear friend, Margaret Donley, at the age of 90.

- Margaret Donley

A faithful member of St. Andrew's for over six decades Margaret contributed her many talents in service to her church as well as to her community.

During her professional teaching career, Margaret worked in special education. She was a longtime member and Treasurer of the Kitchener YMCA board.

Margaret's devotion to her church was shown in many ways: as Superintendent of the Primary Department of the Church School for several years; she was a life-long member of the WMS, serving as Treasurer for almost two decades. In 1982 she was made an Honorary Life Member.

Margaret is survived by her daughter Catherine and husband Randy Hodgson of London; son Charles and wife Dorothy of Etobicoke, and grandchildren Laura and Charles John.

When her memory began to fail, **Janet Christina Blakely** used to write out the hymns of her childhood. One of them, in her handwriting, was framed and hanging by her bedside at Seven Oaks, Home for the Aged in Scarborough "Jesus Tender Shepherd Hear Me, Bless Thy Little Lamb Tonight". At the end of her bed was another framed memento of her earlier years. It was an honourary lifetime membership in the Women's Missionary Society, signed by Mrs. McGillivray in 1923.

Standing around her deathbed were family members, nursing staff and the Chaplain. After the initial quiet sobs, prayers and scripture verses, stories were exchanged - about how she would teach the staff to say their prayers, how she expressed her thanks for offered kindness, how she would correct grammar and spelling mistakes long after she retired from teaching. And so her life was recalled with thanksgiving.

Janet McLaren was born in Forester Falls, in the Pembroke area. She taught at Haley Station and Pembroke prior to her marriage in 1930. Having raised her family of three girls, Mary, Janet and Margaret, she returned to teaching in 1950 and continued into her 72nd year.

A regular church-goer, Janet also attended the Canadian Club and WMS meetings as long as she was able. Janet lived past her 100th birthday - a long life whose chief end was to glorify her Lord and enjoy him forever.

J. D. Howard, Chaplain, Seven Oaks.

The congregation of **Knox, Midland**, Ontario lost a great friend and a wonderful source of inspiration, when Alice Roberts passed away on August 21st. Alice was a well-loved elder in our congregation and an active visitor.

Alice served as President and Secretary on our WMS and was on Barrie Presbyterial for over 20 years, serving in many offices.

CELEBRATIONS

The **Anishinabe Fellowship Centre, Winnipeg**, Manitoba, dedicated its newly renovated building on September 30 with a worship service and a Commissioning Service for Denise Manson, B.A., Lay Missionary, formerly of St. Andrew's, Nanaimo, B.C.

- Denise Manson and Stewart Folster.

Stewart Folster, student minister at Circle West Presbyterian Church (the Native Congregation), Saskatoon, was the guest speaker. He was associated with Anishinabe from 1981 to 1992. Presently he is continuing his studies for the Presbyterian Ministry with the Vancouver School of Theology, Native Consortium, expecting to be ordained in April, 1996. A donor plaque was also unveiled.

CREATIVE ACTION

Last year when no overseas missionary was available, we decided as a group to still have our annual Mission Sunday, but do it ourselves.

As usual, the group members were greeters, collected the offering, led the prayers, read the scriptures, and in place of the sermon, we had a "question and answer" period.

We put a microphone in the middle of the centre aisle and asked people in the congregation for questions. In case we didn't get any – we planted 10 or 12!

We chose people ahead of time and gave them each a question. We basically covered everything we wanted the congregation to know – what we did at our meetings; can men join; where does the money go; the structure of WMS; what an Area Staff person does in WMS; number of mission fields and number of missionaries. We also planted a question regarding Presbyterian World Service & Development and had their representative answer it.

The first chap stood up to ask the question and started by saying "I guess I'm plant #1". That broke the ice and it was all uphill from there!

It really worked very well – no one fell asleep – and many people in the congregation commented on how much they learned.

Janette Mackie, Calgary, Alta.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Mrs. Velma Smith,
St. Andrew's, Arthur, Ont.

Mrs. Margaret Johnson,
Knox, Belmont, Ont.

Mrs. Anna Orser,
St. Andrew's, Barrie, Ont.

Margaret Isabel Robertson,
Gordon Church, Burnaby, B.C.
(formerly of Kerrisdale)

Lillie Cook,
Cookstown, Ont.

Ella Bogie,
Olive McInnes,
Knox, Goderich, Ont.

Mrs. Eleanor McFarlane,
Knox, Guelph, Ont.

Mrs. Agnes McLatchie,
St. Enoch, Hamilton, Ont.

Mrs. Mollie (Edith) Butt,
Mrs. Pearl (Edith) Rogers,
St. Andrew's, Huntsville, Ont.

Mrs. E. Exov,
Bethel, Ilderton, Ont.

Susan Lougheed,
Knox, Leamington, Ont.

Mrs. Vera Purvis,
Lucknow, Ont.

Miss Dorothy Burton,
Miss Ruth McFall,
St. John's, Medicine Hat, Alta.

Jean Holt,
Knox, Midland, Ont.

Mrs. Delilah Reid,
Burns, Milverton, Ont.

Jean Margueratt,
Ruby Pedwell,
Orillia, Ont.

Mrs. Edna Jane Frith,
St. Stephen's, Ottawa, Ont.

Edith Bruce,
St. John's, Port Perry, Ont.

Miss Mary Bruce,
St. Andrew's, Prescott, Ont.

Mrs. Kathleen Mae Simpson,
Bethel, Prices Corners, Ont.

Mrs. Olive MacKenzie (Reay),
Willowdale Zion, Red Deer, Alta.

Mrs. May Campbell, (100 yrs. old)
St. John's and Knox Kintyre,
Rodney, Ont.

Mrs. Bertha C. Taylor,
St. Andrew's, Sarnia, Ont.

Mrs. Marjory Robson,
Calvin-Goforth, Saskatoon, Sask.

Mrs. Jean Clements,
Westminster, Smiths Falls, Ont.

Mrs. John (Eileen) Fourney,
St. Andrew's, South Lancaster, Ont.
(mother of Rev. Lloyd Fourney, First, Edmonton, and Rev. Robert Fourney, St. Andrew's, Windsor, Ont.)

Mrs. E. C. (Bernice) Treleaven,
Glenview, Toronto, Ont.

Miss Margaret Jane Thompson,
St. Andrew's, Tweed, Ont.

Mrs. Eleanor Young,
Central, Vancouver, BC

Mrs. Nora Pye,
Knox, Woodstock, Ont.

Correction:
In Remembrance - September/October issue should read *May* Cameron not Mary Cameron of St. Paul's, Winchester, Ont.

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Handiwork of God

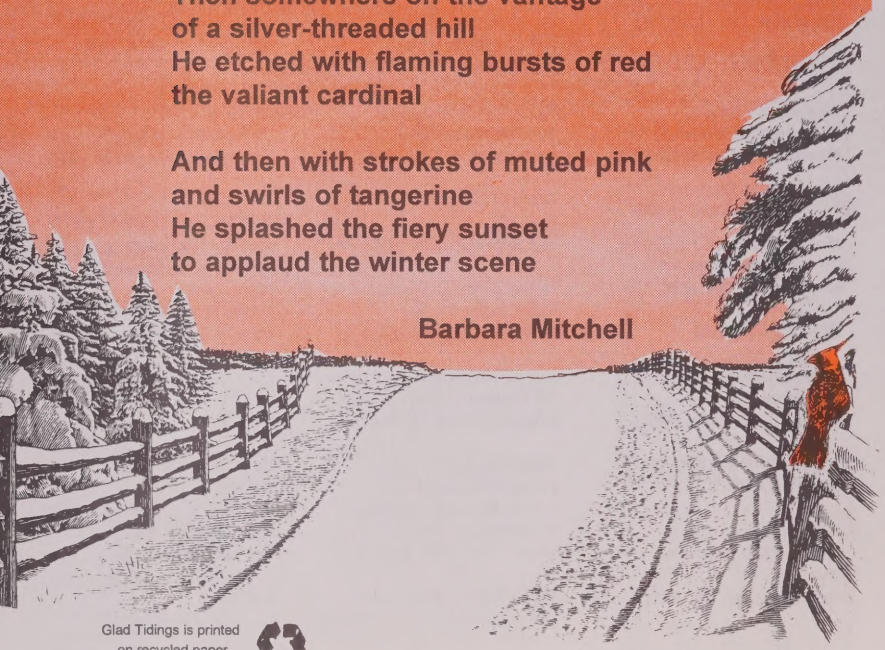
The handiwork of God
has touched the winterland
and captured there on canvas white
the marvels of God's hand

A carpet laid of sifted snow
soft as powdered chalk
and pencilled in with charcoal gray
a sparrow's lonely walk

Then somewhere on the vantage
of a silver-threaded hill
He etched with flaming bursts of red
the valiant cardinal

And then with strokes of muted pink
and swirls of tangerine
He splashed the fiery sunset
to applaud the winter scene

Barbara Mitchell



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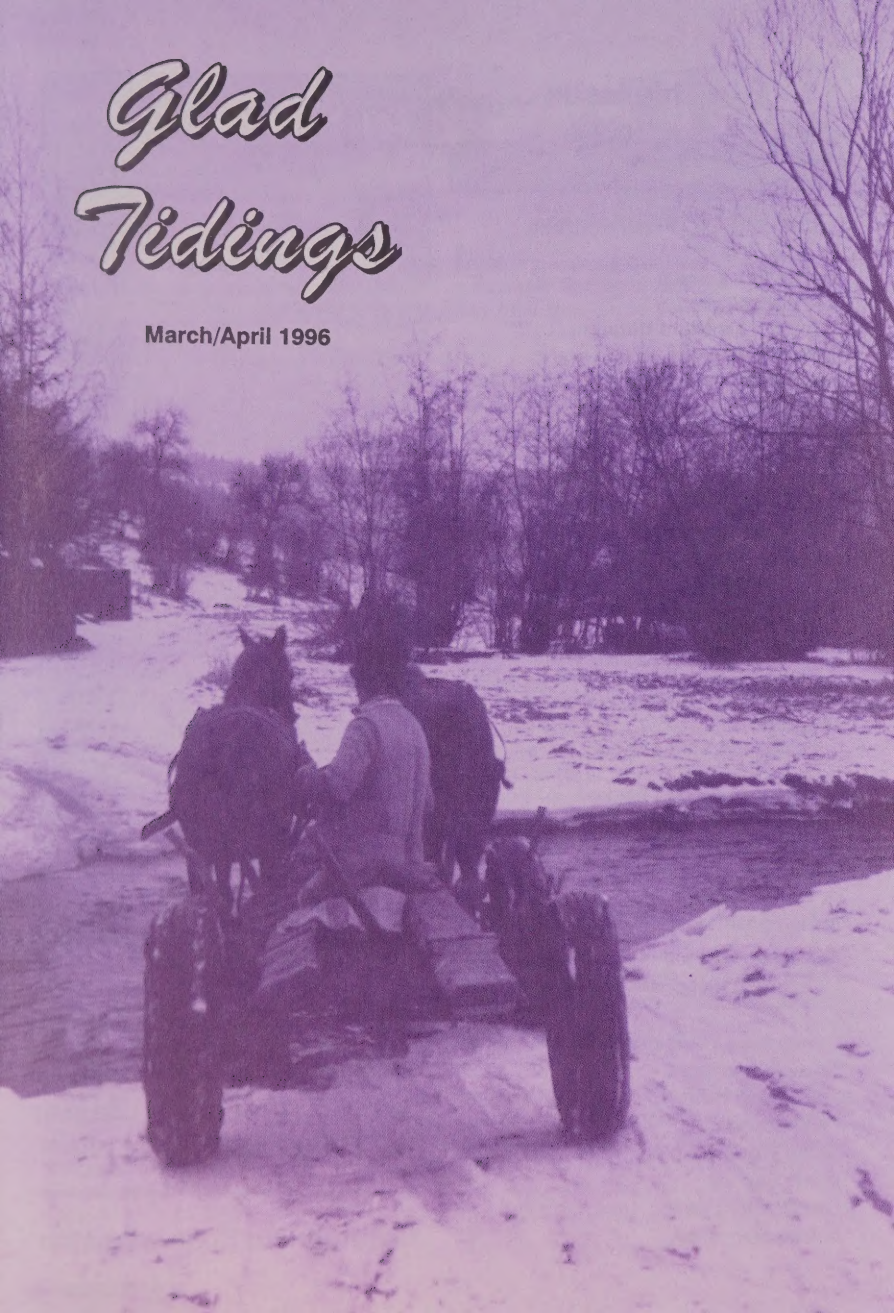
March/April 1996



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Glad Tidings

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GLAD TIDINGS reports on aspects of the Women's Missionary Society on all levels.

GLAD TIDINGS challenges concerned Christians to reflect on their faith through articles and reports related to mission and social justice issues, locally, nationally and internationally.

GLAD TIDINGS through its content, encourages readers to become informed, educated, inspired and motivated to action.

GLAD TIDINGS provides a forum for a broad spectrum of opinion and information, thus the views expressed in features, news reports, letters and book reviews are not necessarily endorsed by the WMS (WD) or by the Editor.

This issue . . .
Sacred Assembly; Easter Worship; Europe.

Cover Photo: Brian Johnston

Guest Editorial - Fresh Horizons

by Jane Gray
Research and development officer for the Woman's Guild of the Church of Scotland

Does Jane have a message for the WMS?

After two and a half years of observing, listening, asking questions, airing suggestions and analyzing comments, the proposals for a "new look" Woman's Guild have just been published in the form of a tape-slide pack called "Fresh Horizons".

This is not the first consultation in which all members have been invited to participate; a short report sent out in December 1994 stimulated over 1100 responses from a possible 1700, so I am confident that there is a lot of interest in shaping the future of the Woman's Guild. Members in branches and Young Woman's Groups are now being presented with "Fresh Horizons" for discussion.

Being the research and development officer of the Woman's Guild has not always been easy, but it has always been varied and interesting. I have learned a lot about the way in which women work together and what they expect to gain from their involvement in the guild. I have also learned that the Woman's Guild is highly regarded as a member of many organizations, both secular and Christian, but that it is largely misunderstood by both men and women within the Church of Scotland.

That was why I decided to recommend to the Woman's Guild Central Executive Committee that the Church should be invited to comment on the main ideas emerging from the research and development project.

Many people have asked me why I have not concentrated on how to attract new and younger members to the Woman's Guild, instead of recommending new approaches and leadership structures. Research identified that the present format and formality of the guild is off-putting to younger women, especially those whose time is limited. Therefore, new ideas about sharing responsibility will address the cause rather than dealing only with the effect.

Different purposes

Flexibility is the key word for the future, but that's not the same as being "all things to all people". Women's groups are formed for many different purposes and it's important not to aim for a single format. However, there is a lot to be gained from a large body of people with a singleness of purpose, a principle on which the guild was first founded with its aim to unite women. If such an aim is still valid, the guild will need to make room for different kinds of women's groups and a variety of ways of expressing the aim – to become an umbrella organization, perhaps?

The options for the future are exciting and the Woman's Guild is gearing up to the challenge. I have been impressed with the willingness in the guild to tackle the issues presented by the research and development project, and I am looking forward to reading the responses to "Fresh Horizons". I hope that lots of non-guild church members will go along to a consultation meeting because I would like to know what others see on the horizon for the guild.

- Reprinted from Life and Work, October 1995.

Tenebrae

Dutifully he attended church –
twice yearly –
Christmas time and Easter time.

My favourite:
On Good Friday
The symbolism of
TENEBRAE

Out of dark despair
LIGHT!!

You are never alone.

Love is enough.

Margaret Gourley

Above: Editor June Stevenson presents Margaret Gourley with a framed copy of Margaret's poem *Seasons* published on page 18 of the September/ October 1995 *Glad Tidings*. Margaret suffers from "locked-in syndrome" following a devastating stroke in 1979.

– Poem reprinted with permission from *Compromise* by Margaret Gourley. Published by TERN GRAPHICS, Oshawa, ON.

"Why Is This Night Different...?"

by Bonnie Nikkel

The phone jingled. It was Lisa. "How would you and Sam like to join us for a Christian Passover celebration tomorrow night? We've done this many times before, and it's always a meaningful time."

I agreed we'd go. As I hung up, I realized that I knew very little about Jewish traditions. What was a "Christian" Passover? I shied away from rituals and enjoyed variety and spontaneity in our church services. I believed worship should be new and fresh every time. What was the value in repeating rituals over and over?

How different my thinking was from the ancient Jews. Their daily lives were encompassed with rituals. Over and over they acted out events through their worship, "the shadows of things to come." It was God's intention that when the Messiah came He would be recognized by people who regularly participated in rituals pointing to Him. I was to learn that the Passover was a very rich portrait of the Messiah, that participating in this ancient ritual would bring new dimensions to my relationship with Christ.

On my way to Lisa and Bill's house, I was upbeat. A Christian Passover sounded quaint, but since they were fun people, I was sure it would be fun. I got my first reality check when I approached the doorway seemingly painted with blood! A careful inspection revealed that my friends had

pinned red cloth to the doorway. The seriousness of the evening pressed itself upon me.

Entering "under the blood", I thought about all who have participated in this meal in the 34 centuries since Moses and the Jewish refugees fled from Egypt. Our meal would differ from theirs but as I took my place at the table, I felt connected with them and with those all over the world, sitting down to a similar meal that very night.

The Passover meal has always centered around the family. Our host, Bill, took the role of the "father", and Lisa, the "mother". The rest of us, were a "family". Thirteen adults sat down to eat what Christians call "The Last Supper", a Passover meal. This was what it was like for Jesus and His disciples on His last night on earth.

The table looked festive with candles and fresh flowers. The Seder Plate of symbolic Passover foods was in the center. One place at the table, set, but left empty, was for the coming Messiah. Bill welcomed us in the name of the Lord Jesus. He prayed a short prayer of consecration. We stood behind our chairs while Lisa lit the candles. Waving her hands from the flame towards her eyes, she said a blessing. Was that gesture a demonstration of an inner need for enlightenment? I certainly felt that need.

We sat down and sang the *Doxology*. Those majestic words, sung a cappella by candle light, seemed new and fresh. Bill rose from his chair, and like our Lord 2000 years ago, took a basin of water and a towel, and said:

"Under the old covenant, hand washing symbolized the interior cleansing necessary for partaking in a ritual. Now we remember Christ washing his disciples' feet at His last Passover meal. This was an expression of the new commandment to love one another."

One guest now asked the ancient questions that Jewish children have been asking for centuries: "Why is this night different from all others? Why do we eat matzo tonight? Why do we eat bitter herbs tonight? Why do we eat roasted lamb tonight?"

Participating in this ancient ritual brought new dimensions to my relationship with Christ.

In reply, Bill introduced the Passover story, taking up items from the Seder plate to illustrate: "We were slaves in Egypt under Pharaoh, and our everlasting God brought us out with the strength and might of His hand. These bitter herbs remind us of the bitter life of slavery. This bowl of salt water is filled with the tears we shed because of our suffering. This unbroken bone symbolizes the first offering, a lamb without blemish or spot. This matzo is like the unleavened bread we ate when we left Egypt, in such haste that there was not enough time for the dough to be leavened."

A guest began to read Exodus 12, and her voice carried me into the past. Six hundred thousand men, plus women and children, stood in their travelling clothes to eat unleavened bread and bitter herbs. They partook of a whole roasted lamb, not one bone of it broken. They were real people, with hopes and dreams for their future, for their children, like me. They wanted to be free to find a place to belong. As they stood eating late at night, did they wonder if the blood on the door would keep the Destroyer away, as Moses had promised? Did they tell their children about the helpless lamb who had to die so they could have its blood for their door?

My reverie was broken by Bill's voice. Selecting three wafers of matzo,

I saw Jesus in the blood on the door, the unbroken bone on the Seder plate, the basin and towel, the unleavened bread.

he said, "This unleavened bread represents the Godhead: The Father, Son and Holy Spirit." He took the middle wafer, and breaking it in two, said, "Just as this bread is without yeast, so the Son of God was without sin. His body was broken for our sin." Bill wrapped the broken pieces of matzo in a linen napkin, and hid them under the table cloth. A profound symbol, bread without yeast - a man without sin, a broken body wrapped in linen and hidden away.

After we drank the Cup of Sanctification, we took pieces of endive, the bitter herb, and dipped them into the salt water, and into horseradish. The strong taste brought tears to my eyes, and I could barely swallow it. Bill reminded us that we once wept over our slavery in Egypt, but now we weep over our bondage to sin. With smarting eyes, I wondered how I could be so casual about my daily sins. Tonight, they seemed profoundly serious. Someone read I John 1:9: "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just, and will forgive us our sins, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness." We paused for silent prayer and confession, and mine were not the only moist eyes.

As we filled our cups to drink the Cup of Praise, someone read from Psalm 40, "He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand. He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to my God...." I looked at each face around me. From what miry pits had the Lord delivered us? We lifted our voices in praise, singing "On Christ, the solid Rock I stand..."

Then we passed hard boiled eggs and began to eat. Lisa said, "The egg is a symbol of new life. Because of the death of our Passover lamb, there is new life for us." The table was littered with empty shells, like many open tombs.

As Lisa came from the kitchen, holding high the roasted lamb so all could see, we said "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" The savory aroma of the roasted meat was overwhelming and its entrance was a psychological turning point. Weeping and regret about sin was not the last word. Here was hope! Never again would I take John's words about Jesus as God's Lamb as a picture of cosy comfort, but one of costly sacrifice.

More food was brought in, roasted potatoes, salad, more matzo, and we celebrated. After the meal, the table was cleared and we again ritually washed our hands. Bill took the linen-wrapped matzo from its hiding place, uncovered the broken pieces and passed them around. We each took a fragment. I looked at the piece in my hand. It had holes punched in it, probably to aid in baking, and looked

striped from the oven racks. How like Christ, pierced and beaten for us. I put the wafer on my tongue. It tasted dry and starchy. I thought of all the communion bread I'd eaten in the past. Had its meaning ever been so clear to me before?

One ritual remained. Someone went to the door and opened it wide. Facing the door, we prayed together, "Lord, our God, ruler of the universe, remember us, your people. Deliver us from evil. Make us perfect in your love. Gather us together from the four winds into your kingdom which you have prepared for us. For yours is the power and the glory for ever. Let love come! And may this world of evil pass away! Maranatha! Come, Lord Jesus!"

The ancient Jews at the end of their Passover meal, opened their doors to hasten the coming of their Messiah. For Christians, our Messiah/Redeemer has already come, but has promised to return. With all my heart I said those words that night, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

Lisa rose and blew out the candles. Our celebration was over. Yet no one moved. All sat quietly in the darkness, reflecting on our experience, reluctant to be the first one to break the spell.

I thought about my longing for enlightenment earlier in the evening. Would I see Jesus here? I saw Him in the blood on the door, the unbroken bone on the Seder plate, the basin and towel, the unleavened bread. He was present in the light of the candles, the empty egg shells, the roasted lamb, the empty chair, the open door. My eyes had been opened in a new way to the scriptures. The Passover was drama with a profound message. I knew I would take its lessons with me.

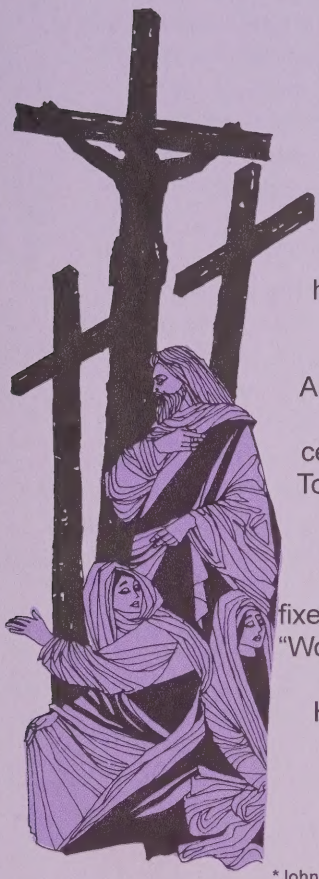
Awakening

Arouse me Lord
from my winter slumber,
open my mind
to the new life
born out of your son's
glorious victory
over death.

Like the sun
energizes the earth
to bear fruit again,
so let me rise
out of lethargy
into the light
of the Easter morning
to be nourished by
Christ's boundless love.

Maria Stam

Mother of the Carpenter



On this God-forsaken hill
I am kneeling
My son's limbs are pierced
dripping blood.
My heart is pierced
watching him.
Why must he die
crucified on a wooden cross?

I remember the last table
he built for me, rough olive wood
hammered, planed, rubbed.
It was perfect.
And on his thirtieth birthday I recall
how his heart was elsewhere,
certainly not in the carpentry shop.
Tools and boards were abandoned.

Today, wounded on wood
he slumps. His battered feet
fixed by a spike; his eyes fixed on me.
"Woman, behold your son," his words*
comfort my wounded heart.
How can he care for me ... now?
unless he be not my son
but my Father.

Joan Bond

*John 19:26

Elder Abuse

What to do When it Happens

by Mary Campbell

I couldn't get the scene out of my mind as I walked out of the nursing home. I had never felt so upset. My stomach was in knots and my heart was pounding in my chest because of what I had just witnessed. I struggled to regain my composure so that I could drive home.

In May of 1990, my mother was admitted to a nursing home after a devastating operation and long stay in hospital. I felt guilty about not being able to care for her in my home. I felt more guilty when I watched her agonizing struggle to adjust to her new surroundings. In a few years she deteriorated from a bright, lively, independent senior to a confused, scared, helpless patient. Each visit with her was charged with painful emotions. Many times I left the nursing home in tears.

Eventually, my mother settled in to her new environment. As the months passed, she became more peaceful and happy. Slowly, I began to trust the nursing staff to take care of her. I noticed how loving they were towards her. I finally felt at peace that she was in the right place.

But five years later that feeling of peace was shattered.

It was one of those delightful days when I could take my mother for a walk down the hall. Often, when I visited, I'd find her in bed sleeping. That day she was bright and perky. I was enjoying our time together.

As Mom and I walked arm and arm, I noticed Yvonne*, one of the health care aides, at the far end of the hall taking a resident by the arm and rushing her into the washroom. I had a strange sense that something wasn't right. I wanted to run down and watch what was taking place, but I had my mother holding my arm for support. She had fallen a couple of times in the past two months and I didn't want to leave her standing alone. I walked with my mother toward the washroom which the aide and the resident had entered.

As I approached the doorway of the washroom I saw the two women clearly reflected in the mirror. To my horror, the health care aide was kicking the resident's feet and ankles while the resident was sitting on the toilet. The resident didn't scream but quietly and vehemently said, "Why you!" When Yvonne saw me standing there with my mother she rushed out of the washroom with tears in her eyes. She complained angrily, "She's difficult. She just pulled off my glasses and tore out my earring. Will you look at my ear and see if it's bleeding?"

I wondered if I should confront her now or wait and think this over? I didn't say anything to Yvonne, feeling that she was too angry and upset. I

reassured her that her ear wasn't bleeding, then decided to take my mother back to her room and go home to think about what to do.

My mind swirled with questions. "Will reporting this incident have an impact on my mother's care? How will the nursing staff treat me when I visit my mother? Will they believe me and take action?"

After a sleepless night, I decided to call the nursing home and speak to the vice-president. I approached the subject cautiously. She didn't want to deal with it so she referred me to the head nurse on my mother's floor, saying, "She will be able to explain what you think you saw." The head nurse's response was just as disheartening. She explained, "This resident is an abusive person and the nurse couldn't possibly have forced her into the washroom."

After speaking with these two people, I felt that I had done something wrong by calling their attention to the problem. But during the next couple of days my conscience would not let me forget what I saw. The more I thought about it, the more I was convinced that I needed to get outside help.

I shared my problem with the pastor in our support group at church. The pastor gave me a package of information on elderly abuse along with a couple of phone numbers for "Concerned Friends Of Ontario Citizens In Care Facilities" and "Residential Services Branch" which is a part of the Ministry of Health. My pastor suggested I call "Concerned Friends" if I wanted complete confidentiality.

In a few days, one of the volunteers at "Concerned Friends" telephoned and advised me to write a letter to the head of the nursing home. She told me to give a detailed description of everything that I saw, including the time, and names of the people involved. She also suggested I give them a one week deadline to contact me.

Fortunately I had journalized everything that I saw that day and this helped me to write a concise letter. Within a couple of weeks I was contacted by the vice-president of the nursing home. She asked me to come and visit them at the home so they could "go over some things with me." They didn't understand how I could have seen the incident so clearly. I remembered that I had not mentioned seeing the incident reflected in the bathroom mirror.

I didn't feel good about going to the home and called "Dale Wasser", the volunteer that I had spoken to at Concerned Friends. Dale agreed with me that I should not go to the home. She warned, "Never go alone to a meeting. Always bring a couple of people as witnesses!"

I called the vice-president again and told her that I did not want to come but that I preferred to discuss the problem over the phone. She apologized profusely and agreed that it was very brave of me to confront the issue. The following day I received a letter from her. She thanked me for coming forward and reporting the incident. She wrote, "I also appreciate how difficult it is for you as a family member to raise this with us."

She was right. It was very difficult for me. My number one concern was that my report would have no negative impact on my mother's care.

I could not have written the letter without the help I received from Concerned Friends. Their advice and confidentiality made me feel safe through the whole process. I know that if there are any problems in the future, I have someone to talk to.

As a result of my report, the home had a meeting of the staff to remind them that patient abuse is not condoned. An investigation was done and

the health care aide was spoken to and re-instructed. Neither the resident nor my mother has not, to my knowledge, been neglected or abused in any way.

Sometimes it bothers me that the aide is still looking after the patients on my mother's floor. But I also feel glad that I didn't keep the incident to myself. At least the home knows that I will not tolerate any more incidents.

*Yvonne is not her real name.

CONCERNED FRIENDS: GETTING HELP WHEN YOU NEED IT

"Concerned Friends Of Ontario Citizens In Care Facilities" is a volunteer organization dedicated to improving health care in long term facilities.

Dale Wasser, who works part-time as a teacher at Seneca College, Toronto is also an advocacy worker. She speaks to families to help raise their concerns to improve the life of patients in nursing homes.

Family members who have witnessed abuse of parents or relatives or have seen someone else abused, may not want to go directly to the Ministry of Health. In most cases, families are too afraid to report elderly abuse at all! **Concerned Friends** is an organization that listens and understands. They've "heard it all" and are not surprised or shocked at each story. Their advice is extremely helpful. Callers are made to feel safe about any disclosure.

Dale says you should always respond if you feel there has been abuse. Then, if you want the nursing home to be held accountable and if you want action taken, write a letter with all of your concerns and request a meeting to go over them. Ask the administration to respond in writing after your meeting. If this procedure is followed in an organized and methodical way you will get a better response than if you yell at or argue with administrators." She adds, "At the very least, things will stay the same and not get worse."

If this route does not work, then report your story to the Ministry of Health. In fact, it is mandatory that you report it. You can also call or write to your MPP at Queen's Park. Your MPP's name and phone number is available at: 416-325-7340.

If you want to be certain that the nursing home is a safe place, Dale says, "Look over inspection reports and check for the license posted in a public place to see if there have been any major violations. If the license is hidden this is a warning sign."

Private nursing homes are not necessarily the best. They are not held accountable by the government because they are not government funded. Also even if a nursing home is under enforcement they still admit patients. **Concerned Friends** has an updated list of these homes every month.

The more people who come forward to say that they will no longer accept abuse in nursing homes, homes for the aged, chronic care homes, and hospitals, the more **Concerned Friends** can expect to create a strong and united voice to work toward changes.

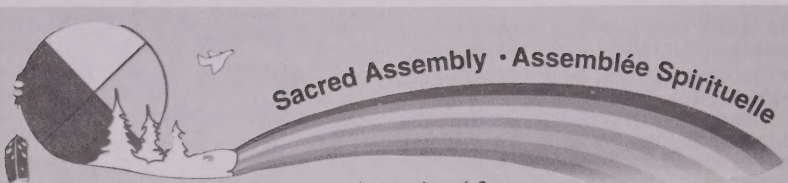
If you need advice on something that is bothering you about a nursing home or if you want more information regarding **Concerned Friends**, call or write:

Concerned Friends of Ontario
Citizens in Care Facilities
170 Merton Street
Toronto, Ontario M4S 1A1
Phone: 416-489-0146

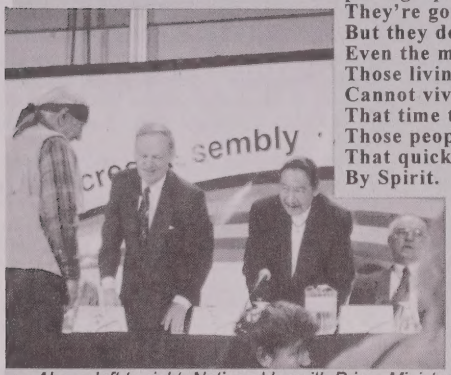
Note: You can join Concerned Friends for a small membership fee of only $15.00 per year.

Those outside Ontario should enquire from their Provincial Ministry of Health whether an organization like "Concerned Friends" exists in your area. In the absence of any such organization, you might seek out concerned people in your church and community to form an advocacy group.

- Mary Campbell



Sacred Assembly '95



The careful notes and journals, the photographs, the news items -
They're good
But they don't cut it.
Even the memories -
Those living pictures of the mind -
Cannot vivify
That time there
Those people there
That quickening of my spirit there
By Spirit.

But though that time, that place, those people
will not live again
The heart and soul can
And must:
That was and is the goal.

- Above left to right: Native elder with Prime Minister Jean Chretien, Elijah Harper and Ron Irwin.

I'll Walk with You by L. June Stevenson

A young native woman captured the heart of the Sacred Assembly held December 6-9, 1995 at the Palais des Congres, Hull, Quebec. On the first evening she said to those of us, looking for directions to the registration desk, "I'll walk *with* you."

From the east and the west we came, from the north and the south. From faraway Brazil, Australia and South Africa. Male and female. Black and white, and all the skin tones in between. Christian and non-Christian. Political and non-political. Called together to a new relationship with our Creator; called to reconciliation and healing. All because of the vision of one man, Elijah Harper.

One's Man's Vision...

Harper, Cree Member of Parliament for Churchill, Manitoba, and an aboriginal spiritual leader, believes that the hope of reconciliation between Christian and native spirituality, between oppressor and oppressed, between the Canadian government and First Nations, lies in a renewed spirituality. "The Creator wants to heal this land," he said simply in his opening address.

Recovering from an illness during which he lost sixty-five pounds and sought help both from doctors and native healers, Harper had a vision that Canada needed spiritual healing if reconciliation was to happen for

Heart, soul, spirit of that experience
Its inscape
Must escape, outscape, practify:
That was and is the goal.
Act.
Act by speaking.
For after all
The word was with God
And the Word was God.
And without him was not
anything made
That was made.
And after all
The Assembly
Was people's stories
Their many stories
Their thoughts
Ideas
Feelings
Hearts
All held out in banners, the signs
of words.
And so there
After all
Enspiriting words
Enspirited us.

- Above left to right: Alexandra Johnston, Canadian Council of Churches with Moderator Alan McPherson.

So now we share
Our words
In the hope
That these shells will grow some
living flesh
In ourselves
And others
And others
That will issue in human acts
By ourselves
And others
And others
And others...

- Beth Clelland, Gateway Presbyterian Church, Toronto

native peoples. "The political process has failed us. We need a spiritual awakening," he said, adding that the spiritual leaders and elders must be brought together to help in this process.

Ovide Mercredi, National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations, praised Harper for providing an opportunity "to talk about something other than what divides us...."

Prime Minister Jean Chretien, who called the Assembly unprecedented in the history of our country, paid tribute to Harper's "personal wisdom." "You did not come here to insist on your own way but to find a higher way."

Presbyterian Participation...

Among the participants were over two dozen Presbyterians, some official representatives of the Church. Alan McPherson, Moderator of the 121st General Assembly was among leaders of the major Christian denominations and other faith groups who joined government officials and native leaders at the Assembly. His wife Maureen was also present.

Ray Hodgson and Ian Morrison of the Life and Mission Agency, PCC attended as well as Stewart Folster, Denise Manson, Kelly-Lee Hashemi, Henry Hildebrandt and Lorraine Major, all active in native ministry in the PCC. Irene and Jim Marnoch, former workers at the Cecilia Jeffrey School accepted the invitation of the Women's Missionary Society to be among the representatives. Rosemary Doran, WMS President and June Stevenson, editor, were there also.

- Native youth in a gesture of solidarity.

There was a moving moment early in the Assembly when a native elder from Kenora went to the microphone to say he had walked up and down the halls looking for Presbyterian people. "I'm haunted until this day, looking for answers, a chance to heal," said Birdie Cantin, former student at the Cecilia Jeffrey School. Birdie quickly found his Presbyterians, shared his story, and had dinner with them. It was a moment that was repeated through the Assembly as native and non-native came together in a meeting of minds and hearts.

There was pain and struggle in the stories that were shared of abuse and misunderstandings, and centuries of discrimination and forced assimilation. One after one, the native elders told of their people's struggles to overcome addiction and to rebuild their lives. One after one, the leaders of the Churches spoke of their Churches involvement, struggle and action. Ray Hodgson reminded everyone that the role of the government also needs to be recognized.

In his address, Rev. Alan McPherson prayed that "those whom we have hurt too deeply for telling" will find healing and wholeness, together with the Church.

Two South African members of Parliament, one black, the other white, reflected on the South African experience, adding, "We have taken bitterness and transformed it. ... One day restoration will take place here but it must be done in an orderly fashion, with consensus."

Youth in Solidarity...

Nowhere was the bitterness and pain more evident than among the native youth who spoke of what had been lost and challenged their elders to teach them, to listen, to "hear the silence," and in the silence, fear, anger, confusion and pain, hope, joy and love."

As four of them spoke at a time allotted, over 40 youth walked together to the front where they stood in a gesture of solidarity, holding hands throughout the speeches.

Speeches, prayers, workshops, cultural events flowed together in four exhausting, but exhilarating days. Events were rescheduled as, time after time, the speakers went through the meal hours, some without a break. The halls were abuzz with small groups chatting and Christmas shoppers taking advantage of the native wares, even native soft drink. The grand finale was a mass of colour and ceremony.

In the end, most agreed that the

Assembly was a step in the right direction. It was a symbol of what can be achieved when people come together in a spirit of respect and openness. A second assembly called for the summer of 1997 is expected to move things further along the road to reconciliation. In the meantime many participants left with a renewed sense of vision and commitment, not only for native peoples but for all peoples of Canada.

Elizabeth Graham, Knox Crescent Kensington & First Presbyterian, Montreal affirmed, "All journeys begin with small steps."

Presbyterians Respond . . .

Some Presbyterians responded to a questionnaire sent out from the Glad Tidings office. Following are some of their comments. Hopefully there will be opportunities to share more of these later.

What was the highlight of the Assembly for you personally?

The courage, the efforts, the gifts and the contribution of the youth. I believe in the revival of Native spirituality that was expressed by the youth and many others. - *Stewart Folster*

One of the most powerful moments was...a woman who shared how she had been in a Presbyterian Residential School. She was wounded by her experience. She needed someone to tell her personally they were sorry. During the break I told her I was a Presbyterian minister and that I was ashamed of what happened to her not only in the name of our denomination but in the name of Christ. She hugged me and sobbed in my arms. She thanked me and said she needed someone to look in her eyes and say that. She forgave me and the whole church. - *Elizabeth Graham*

I would liken the Assembly to being born again. At the time it was very painful, but looking back I am thankful that I was given the opportunity to share in the pain that the Native people suffer. I am speaking of repentance. Every time I heard the words "white, Christian, Presbyterian, missionary" used in a negative way I felt like someone was hitting me. I came back quite bruised. - *Denise Manson*

Why were the Churches invited to this Assembly and how was their presence utilized?

...to initiate the reconciliation of native peoples to all of Canada. The Churches were used as an example of how grace and forgiveness might work. - *Stewart Folster*

A great deal of hurt was caused by these churches and they needed to hear this. - *Tony Boonstra, St. Andrew's Presbyterian, Richmond*

I thought the churches were being asked to enter, as friends, into the ongoing struggle. - *Ken Stright, St. Andrew's Presbyterian, Pictou*

What do you feel the Assembly achieved towards the healing of native peoples?

The Assembly was another festering wound that was lanced and this is always helpful. - *Ken Stright*

It is good that native peoples could communicate with one another; that they felt the freedom to express grief, and hope. - *Beth Clelland*

What do you feel the Assembly achieved towards reconciliation between the mainline Churches and native peoples?

The Assembly was a post-healing event. Native peoples are being healed. We moved onward from that point...enabled to do so perhaps because of the Apologies/Confessions. - *Irene and Jim Marnoch*

The partnership of the Churches in the event allowed us to acknowledge our failures in a way that I hope will be widely heard in a constructive way. - *Ken Stright*

Churches were issued a challenge to re-engage with the issues of aboriginal rights in the broader context of Canadian unity/survival. - *Unknown*

It turned the apologies and statements into dialogues. - *Elizabeth Graham*

I don't think huge progress was made. The churches, probably rightly, were cautious in their commitment and were, I felt, sometimes received with sceptism. - *Rosemary Doran*

What do you feel the Assembly achieved in the area of understanding between church/government/native peoples?

A historic event for the three groups to come together in open dialogue. - *Rosemary Doran*

We are still miles apart. - *Ken Stright*

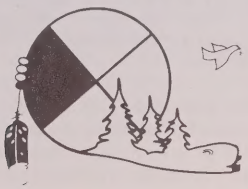
I was impressed when Ron Irwin, the Minister for Indian Affairs, said publicly, "Elijah, I'm with you 100%!" - *Aileen Pelletier, Trinity Presbyterian Church, Toronto*

As a church, where do we go from here?

The apathy in Canadian churches involving aboriginal justice issues is horrendous. I believe our Aboriginal brothers and sisters needs support from ALL our congregations. - *Denise Manson*

The Church should start apologizing to former native students. - *Walter Redsky*

The Presbyterian Church can dialogue with the leaders of government and the native leaders so that the promises made at the Sacred Assembly on behalf of the government of Canada will not fall on deaf ears once again. - *Stewart Folster*



Discoveries

I met my brother, my sister today.
I had known of them for a long time of course,
but they lived far away -
out West, up North -
not in my pleasant urban cocoon.

And I mostly knew them through books, and TV,
and newspapers,
through the words and eyes of others -
not always kind nor sympathetic,
nor understanding of a different way of life,
grounded in, bounded by, Spirit and land,
God and earth.

I met my sister, my brother face to face.
We were alike, yet unalike,
reassuringly similar,
yet disturbingly different,
but all of us - surely? -
children of the same Great Spirit, the same Creator God.

I heard their stories -
anger, abuse, betrayal -
and I wept with them,
torn by the injustices they know.

I heard their stories -
courage, determination, hope -
and I stood with them,
moved to celebrate life and God.

My life is changed
now that I have met my brother, my sister -
less comfortable,
no longer innocent or unaware,
yet richer, broader,
enhanced by their voice, their vision.

My life is better because I have met them.
my sister, my brother.
I hope that for them
life is also better,
because they have met me.

Rev. Rosemary Doran, President,
Women's Missionary Society

More on Mission Study Themes: 1995-96: EUROPE

Brian Johnston is a member of Knox Presbyterian Church, Waterloo and is working as a self-funded volunteer, teaching music and English at the Protestant Theological Institute in Cluj, Romania. Cover photo and photo page17 by Brian. Photo page 18 by Fekete Morton.

ROMANIA MISSION

by Brian Johnston

Ev'ry time I feel the spirit
Moving in my heart...

The spirit of God certainly does work in mysterious and powerful ways. Many times people end up doing certain things and being in certain places which couldn't have been logically reasoned out - 'The spirit moves'...

When I first visited Romania in 1992 I felt very much the movement of the spirit amongst the people there and I was happy when in October 1993 a position opened up for a teacher of music and English at the Protestant Theological Institute in Cluj, Romania. After three years, I am still enjoying this position.

It's an exciting time to be thinking about the sharing of our common spirit between the east and the west. The Reformed Church in Romania has dramatically opened its doors since the downfall of the Communist Regime and the execution of the Ceausescus in December 1989. Many new churches are being built and activities for youth groups have expanded rapidly including summer camps. The theological institute during the Ceausescu Regime was restricted to 15 students per year which resulted in a severe shortage of pastors to fill the parishes of the Reformed Church.

At present in our institute there are 250 students including those who are Lutheran and Unitarian. My work is highly stimulating. It involves teaching English and music as well as organizing an English choir. I have also become deeply involved with photography. The motivational spirit behind my first exhibition of photography came largely from the students in the institute. It is inspiring to witness how music, photography and the teaching of English can be utilized as vehicles for transmission of the Good News of the Gospel.

I feel very much at home with my brothers and sisters in this part of the world. I should explain that my students are from the Hungarian minority living in the Transylvanian part of Romania. This area before World War I belonged to Hungary. In the larger centres Ceausescu tried to redistribute the Hungarian population in order to diffuse its strength. Some villages, however, have remained completely Hungarian and some are exclusively Protestant.

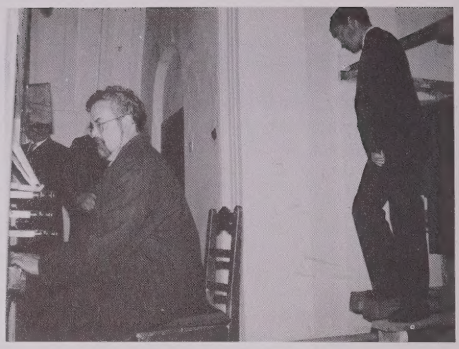
Women and men still sit separately in the church services. Many village churches are without heat. On one particular frigid December morning I played a little faster than usual as I was afraid that my fingers would freeze to the keys.

I have four colleagues among the foreign teachers: Gordon from the Church of Scotland, Mary from the Unitarian Church of the United States and Heiko and Barbara from the Reformed Church in Germany. We support each other and find the occasional scrabble game a refreshing break from teaching.

We have wonderful English teaching material, *The New Cambridge English Course,* donated by the Church of Scotland. This is a great asset as the general level of teaching materials in Romania is extremely low.

I try to encourage students to develop their individuality through their studies and other activities. During the Communist Regime individual opinions were not encouraged. It was much safer not to be responsible for anything. Although changes happen slowly, I was delighted when I recently directed a concert in which 90 percent of the basic organization had been done by the students.

During August and September 1995 I was in Canada and gave many presentations about my work here. I thank all who are giving me moral and financial support. My institute cannot provide a salary for me so I am dependent on donations to further develop my work. I would like to thank the Women's Missionary Society for its contribution of $500 which was used to purchase a Yamaha synthesizer which was badly needed for my teaching.



- Primitive organ. While Brian (left) plays, the organ assistant pumps bellows.

It is important that the churches in Canada show solidarity with churches that struggled under communist regimes. Support and assistance helps them to connect to their new friends in the west.

God's blessings to you all as we continue to share our common spirit in Christ.

THE PRICE OF FREEDOM

by Mary Lou Johnston

Christians in Central Europe - 1995

'Good King Wenceslas', the song we sing at Christmas, is not known in the Czech Republic today. But in what was then known as Bohemia, the legends about his life there as a kind Christian man of peace are very famous.

The legend's sequel is typical of those rough mediaeval times: After a four-year reign, he was murdered by his brother and friends. When his page, Podwen, (who walked behind him in the snow) returned to the area years later, he killed one of the murderers and as a result was himself

- Organ in Berlin (formerly east) Cathedral (Protestant); church of Prussian King Frederick 11.

stalked and hung in the woods by Wenceslas' brother, who had then become king.

But the stories abound about miracles of healing at Wenceslas' grave and in the centre of Praque today is Wenceslas Square, more like a grand boulevard the size of two football fields, where thousands of people gathered in November, 1989, singing and listening to speeches, caught up in the movement towards freedom from the rule of communism.

Sadly, vengeance for past deeds, as we see in the nightly news, has not faded from the mental attitudes of some Europeans today, but in Hungary, the Czech Republic and East Germany, the spirit of reconciliation and optimism is more prominent. The release of tight state controls has caused rejoicing among the people but the problems of transition are enormous.

Here is an example: You are an older woman who had either a professional or industrial job most of your life and in 1990 were about to retire and receive quite a reasonable pension. The change from socialist to market economy has brought inflation which has increased the cost of your apartment and all other living expenses. As well, your pension, which was based on a much lower salary, is now almost valueless. The governments, not wanting to tax new enterprises so they can be competitive, have less money for social services so there is not much help there.

If you are a Christian, you can continue to go to church and probably receive some support from the services offered by church organizations. Churches remained open under the communist regimes, but in many cases, families who were Christian were unable to send their children to university and suffered from other forms of discrimination. Christian schools, and there were many, were not allowed to operate as such, so that your grandchildren, in spite of your attempts at home and Sunday School education, have been exposed to a powerful secular propaganda which places even more emphasis on materialism. The best of the communist ideal may have encouraged the benefits of sharing and cooperation so that everyone in the society had work and the necessities of life. But this was offset by the inevitable loss of freedom due to government control.

The truth is that you, as a Christian in any European country, formerly communist or continuously capitalist, are a part of a small minority. The stately and in many cases ornately beautiful churches, have become great tourist rather than religious attractions. Other buildings reflect past imperial glories or the destructiveness of war. Yugoslavia today is a microcosm of the history of Europe – war, followed by another war, often for religious reasons. Europeans fled those conflicts to our continent. A majority of people there have become skeptical of all religions.

But if you were a Christian in East Germany in the late eighties, you would probably have been caught up in the great movement to change the current policies gradually towards a more moderate socialism. Inevitably, events moved too quickly; governments and economies fell so fast that the society collapsed. In the unifica-

tion of all organizations, West Germany has dominated so completely, that Easterners in churches and universities have been made to feel inferior.

So there is psychological and physical misery, but the good news is the freedom of choice and freedom from fear especially from the secret police of each government. In East Germany, the Stasi had so many files on its citizens, if laid end to end they would have reached 145 kilometers. Friends, relatives and strangers reported on such dangerous matters as the location of furniture in your house and the names of restaurants where you ate. A visit to the enormous Stasi complex of buildings is a sobering experience.

Left to right: Geoff and Mary Lou Johnston, Bob Evans, Director of Seminar from USA and Rev. Janos Pasztor, minister and professor at theological college, Budapest, Hungary.

Now the Christian churches are pulling the threads of their organizations together and trying to decide how best to present the message of faith to cynical youth and tired seniors. Reestablish the Christian schools in Hungary? There are not enough Christian teachers. Become the social conscience of the community and the watchdog of unbridled capitalism? The role of successfully criticizing government is a new but heady experience for those in central European countries. It united Christian and atheist alike in the years before and after 1989. Since then there have been hard times and difficult decisions. How can the Gospel speak to the disillusioned, to the entrepreneurs now exploiting the freedom from controls, and to the young who have few hooks to give life meaning?

No longer are Czech kings like Charles IV crowned in great churches with ceremonies lasting for several days. Emblems like the coronation orb and sceptre and the St. Wenceslas sword are now stored in museums. At that event in the 15th century, the vast assembly of people sang an ancient hymn, "Lord, have mercy upon us." With this hymn the people showed their faith in God and hope for their new king, for themselves and for their country. We pray that today's faithful in central Europe will also experience God's guidance and mercy.

In June 1995, Mary Lou and Geoff Johnston visited Budapest, Prague and East Berlin with *Plowshares Institute*, an organization which conducts short immersion seminars in countries throughout the world to educate North Americans about the churches and local issues of justice and economics.

SLEEPING WITH THE ELEPHANT

by Geoffrey Johnston

Our past but unlamented Prime Minister, Brian Mulroney, once said that living with the United States was like sleeping with an elephant. If he rolls over, you're dead.

Last June we went to Eastern Europe as part of the American Theological Society globalization programme. We visited three countries, all of whom are living with elephants. The nearest and most dangerous of them is Germany, leader of the European Community. East Germany, willy nilly, has been incorporated. The Czechs and the

- Commercialism in west Berlin. Plaza where stands the ruin of Kaiser Wilhelm Church.

Hungarians, with different degrees of enthusiasm, would like to join the herd.

In some ways, East Germany will have the easiest time. Prussia, which made up most of the German Democratic Republic (GDR) was the province that united Germany in the first place. The suburb of East Berlin where we lived was host to a country castle of the House of Hohenzollern, dukes of Prussia and then monarchs of Germany. Berlin is the traditional capital of Germany, and once the necessary renovations are complete, will be the capital again. In the forty years of its existence the GDR developed a distinctive life of its own, a life which is now in peril. At the moment, reunification is "anschluss", annexation, a process not unlike Reconstruction in the United States. But there is good reason to believe that the process in Prussia will be less painful, and leave fewer scars than in the South.

The Czechs we met were the most optimistic about the elephant. They have a strong democratic tradition, a sound industrial base and above all, centuries of experience. They became part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire in the 17th century, and for most of the last three centuries the working language in the civil service was German. But they will speak Czech. That is no mean accomplishment. In Quebec we still speak French, but it has been hard work.

The country to worry about is Hungary. Hungary was the junior partner in the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and started its independent life as an agricultural country without a large slice of its traditional territory. It lost Transylvania after the First World War. Recent industrialization has apparently been shallow and transient. With its debt, shrinking economy and buccaneering capitalists, Hungary has the makings of a marginal country, an agricultural colony of the European "powers that be."

But the Hungarians were the people with the most interesting ideas. One of them came from Bishop Hegedus, who spoke of Hungary as a country which had witnessed the failure of a great secular experiment, East European socialism. That comment made sense, for me at least, of the continuing popularity of Karl Barth, a theologian who has long since fallen from favour in North Atlantic circles. Barth wrote in the shadow of the failure of another great secular experiment, nineteenth century liberalism.

But nineteenth century liberalism has been born again as the global economy, greater in power than anything the Victorians knew. Modern capitalism

> ...bestrides the narrow world
> Like a Colossus; and we petty men
> Walk under his huge legs and peep about
> to find ourselves dishonourable graves
> (Julius Caesar Act 1, Sc 2)

The people of the east have left one great Promethean experiment to join another. In this new game they are likely to be the people of the margins. It is hard to be a small people in a capitalist world. Some countries manage by dint of imagination, hard work, and luck. I wish our friends the best of all three.

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CELEBRATING YOUTH :and Children!

Facing Ethical Questions as a Christian

by Mary Ellen Ruddell

Ethical questions and challenges face us each day. As Christians, how do we respond to them? Is it different for us than our non-Christian neighbour? Should it be different? How is it different?

These are just a few questions that 25 young people grappled with on October 21, 1995. How we respond as Christians in today's society was the focus of an interactive and informational day-long event hosted by the Youth Working Group of the Canadian Council of Churches held at St. Mark's Coptic Orthodox Church in Scarborough. Three panelists provided their perspective on questions surrounding the environment, corporate ethics and euthanasia.

Following our panel, we allowed the group to ask questions of the speakers. At this point things opened up. From the questions asked, one could tell that the panelists had touched upon a number of issues that were important to the participants.

Later we were treated to a multimedia video from Spectrum Graphics which poignantly illustrated the damage inflicted on the environment by the way we live our lives.

After lunch we engaged in Bible study to reflect on what it means to be a "Moral Christian." Where do we receive guidance and direction for answers to our ethical questions and how do we interpret the messages? Although we face disagreement and differences when interpreting the Bible, it became real to the participants that we receive our guidance and direction from the teachings found there. Although cultural and personal differences may abound, there is a common message calling us to act in an ethical manner.

After the Bible study, we challenged ourselves with everyday ethical questions. We broke into small groups and tackled situations that we had faced either in the past, present or would possibly face in the future. We realized quickly some of our denominational and cultural differences. We also realized our common beliefs, attitudes, and that day to day we all face the same choices and must come at them from the same base.

Following worship, we each left the event feeling that we must act consciously. We are bombarded constantly by information which can overwhelm our senses. Rather than "toe the line" we must be a voice of question and guidance. As Christians it is our responsibility to care for God's creation as stewards of the earth. Included in this is our care for and outreach to all who inhabit this earth. When we become aware of what is going on around us and the part we play in both ethical and unethical decisions, we are better prepared to make conscious and thoughtful ethical choices.

- Mary Ellen Ruddell is convenor of the Canadian Council of Churches Working Group. She is presently a member of the General Assembly's Ecumenical Relations Committee and a past convenor.

WRITING/DRAWING CONTEST FOR CHILDREN/YOUTH

(In relation to the 1995-96 Learning/Sharing Project) "Hope for Street Kids"

WRITTEN SUBMISSION

Children and Youth are invited to submit, in 300 words or less, a poem, prayer or essay on the topic, "Hope for Street Kids".

This contest is open to all children and youth, particularly those who are taking part in the 1995-96 Learning-Sharing/Offering Project.

Written submissions should be typed, doubled-spaced, with name, age, congregation and mailing address of writer on the submission.

First prize winner will receive a book award. Second and third place will also be recognized.

DRAWING

Young artists are invited to send drawings to the Glad Tidings on the topic "Hope for Street Kids".

Submissions should be on good quality 8 1/2 x 11 white paper, and drawn OR outlined in black. Artwork done with crayon, pencil crayon or watercolour is difficult to reproduce.

Each submission should be labelled clearly on the back with name, age, congregation, mailing address of artist. First, second and third place will be acknowledged with a prize given to the first place winner.

All submissions will be judged by the Editor of Glad Tidings and persons in Children and Youth ministry.

Winning entries will be published in the Glad Tidings.

Send contest entries by August 31, 1996 to Glad Tidings, 50 Wynford Drive, North York, ON M3C 1J7.

For more information see p. 33 of the November/December 1995 Glad Tidings.

The Elizabeth Kennedy Memorial Fund

(see Obituary in November 1994 Glad Tidings)

Elizabeth Kennedy's life-long passion for human rights, particularly the rights of women and children, makes it appropriate that, in setting up a fund in her name, we honour her commitment. Therefore, the *Elizabeth Kennedy Memorial Fund* will be used to provide financial assistance for people in our Church who wish to attend conferences or other events concerning the place of women in church and society – events that will challenge and expand their horizons, provide opportunities for dialogue and which are in keeping with the goals of the *Ecumenical Decade of the Churches in Solidarity with Women*. The goals of the Decade are:

- empowering women to challenge oppressive structures in the global community, their country and their church
- affirming – in shared leadership and decision-making, theology and spirituality – the decisive contributions women are already making in churches and communities
- giving visibility to women's perspectives and actions in the struggle for justice, peace and the integrity of creation
- enabling churches to free themselves from racism, sexism, and classism and from teachings and practices which discriminate against women
- encouraging churches to take actions in solidarity with women

The administration and release of monies from the Memorial Fund will be at the discretion of a committee consisting of the Executive Secretary of the WMS, the Treasurer, and the President of the Montreal Presbyterial. Donations to the Fund should be made out to the Women's Missionary Society earmarked "Elizabeth Kennedy Memorial" and sent to the WMS, 50 Wynford Drive North York, ON M3C 1J7.

Dazed, Amazed, & Praising!

by Joyce Davis

Preparation: Encourage all readers to prepare ahead of time.

1. For the first scripture use 4 readers: narrator, Mary Magdalene, angels, and Jesus.
2. For the second scripture use 2 readers: narrator and Peter.
3. Dialogue A: If readers think this through beforehand, they may be able to add their own ideas to these speeches, making the discussion more attuned to their own group's perspective.
4. Dialogue B: You can begin by inviting group members to share ideas of connections they see between the two stories, or do this after reading the printed dialogue.

Call to Worship:

Leader: It's *so amazing*, Jesus is *alive*!
All: Yes, he's even with us here, today!
Leader: We've gathered here together, at God's invitation, just like the early disciples did.
All: Yes, just like them. Let's hear the exciting news again, and then we, too, will praise God!

Hymn: #196 Good Joseph had a garden (verses 1-5)
or At the dawning of salvation* (verses 1 & 2)

Scripture: John 20: 1-18

Dialogue A: (Between members of a local women's group)

Member 1: Imagine going to visit the grave of someone you loved very much and finding a gaping hole and the body no longer there!
Member 2: I can understand why she ran for help, and I can picture those two disciples running pell mell back to the grave to check it out with their own eyes.
Member 3: I think all Mary could think of was - 'They've taken away his body and I don't know where to find it!'

Member 1: She was so upset she couldn't recognize Jesus.
Member 2: But all he had to do was say one word, 'Mary'.
Member 3: Then the first word that came out of her mouth was 'Teacher'!

Member 1: (Turning to the assembled group) If you suddenly saw Jesus like Mary did, what do you think the first word out of your mouth would be?
(Have a brief discussion with the group.)

Member 2: There's a second scripture passage we're supposed to read today. I wonder why we're skipping from this resurrection story to one in the early church.
Member 3: Let's read it and look for the connection.

Scripture: Acts 10: 34-48 (Background: a non-Jew, Cornelius, was instructed by God, in a vision, to invite Peter to his house, so that he could bring God's message.)

Dialogue B:

Member 1: The first connection I notice is that, just as Mary was surprised by Jesus' appearance, the Christian Jews with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on those Gentiles as well.
Member 2: I guess those new Gentile Christians were pretty surprised at what happened to them, too! Wouldn't you be?
Member 3: Perhaps this story in Acts is reminding us that, as well as celebrating the wonderful news that Jesus is alive, we need to share it with those who don't know that yet.

Member 1: I have some neighbours who are kind of religious like Cornelius was, but I don't think they know Jesus.
Member 2: But it's hard to know how to communicate this good news in a friendly way.
Member 3: Yes, it is. But I notice two helpful things in this story. First, God showed them when and where to do it, and second, the Christians were working together. Peter didn't have to do it all alone.

Member 1: Yes, we can encourage and help each other. Thank God for Christian friends!

Litany:

Leader: Dazed and heartbroken, Mary stood in the garden thinking that you, Jesus, were dead and that she was all alone.
People: Sometimes we feel like that too, O Lord. We feel abandoned and don't know where to turn.
Leader: Yet you, Jesus, were alive and right beside Mary, listening and understanding her innermost feelings.
People: Thank you that you stand near us, too. You know each of us by name, and are ready to help us face whatever lies ahead.
Leader: Just like Peter and the other Christians with him, you ask us to share the news that you are alive, with those who are searching.
People: Fill us, dear Saviour, with the joyful presence of your Holy Spirit. Please show us who among our neighbours, like Cornelius, is searching for you, and then please show us how to tell them that you are calling their names, too.

Hymn: "Good Joseph had a garden" (verses 6-8)
or At the dawning of salvation* (verse 3)

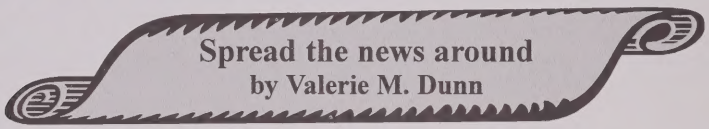
program...program...program...program...program...program...program...

Unison Benediction:

Because Christ lives, we, too, have new life.
So let's burst forth from our cocoons of fear
and fly free as the butterfly,
sharing the colour of his love with all we meet.
And may the joy and peace of Christ's living presence
go with us all. Amen.

***#18, Sampler, The Book of Praise, The Presbyterian Church in Canada.**

Joyce Davis, along with her husband Glen, are in a team ministry at Knox, Agincourt. Joyce has been a member of Council Executive.



A stranger in town, I heard the local Presbyterian Church was having a rather unusual Easter Communion service. I called and asked about the time.

"Oh, it's sort of a church family thing," the minister said, in apologetic tones. "But you can come if you like."

Fortunately, his attitude did not discourage me, and I went, to experience a gently loving, intimate service that gave me a lift for days.

How do we feel about the meetings we hold, in local Groups, Presbyterial, Synodical? Are we more like that minister than we'd care to admit? Do we tell ourselves, "Oh, we enjoy it but nobody other than our own women would want to come..."

The women at the empty tomb of Jesus were doubtful. They weren't sure anyone would believe that Christ's body was not there. I wonder what would have happened if they had told themselves, "Oh, nobody will believe this. Let's just go home and forget about it!"

Do we of the WMS really believe, like those women, that we have *Good News* worth sharing? Are we prepared to "Go quickly, and tell?"

What attracts others?

Do you remember the last time somebody you know got engaged? She turned up with a sparkling ring on her finger and a smile to match.

I'm sure you were on the phone shortly afterwards. "Have you heard? Joan is engaged!"

Telling others about the Women's Missionary Society and its activities deserves the same kind of enthusiasm.

"But our meetings are kind of dull. I don't feel like that about them and neither do the rest of our members."

Then it's time for a program pep-up. Take a hard look as a group to discover why you feel as you do. What would be attractive to people outside the group? Or to be more specific, what would attract that woman who comes to church regularly but has never shown an interest in mission study? Chances are what would appeal to her might also make the meetings more appealing to you and your members!

If a group needs help in programming it should call on the Synod/Synodical education field staff. If the Synod staff isn't available to a

local group he/she usually knows who can be called on to help.

As your enthusiasm starts to build, the natural next step is to invite others. Here are some simple methods.

In the church

- Give a one-minute talk at a worship service, perhaps using a poster or some other visual aid. For instance you could wear a hat or some item from the country you are studying. Think about TV or radio commercials when preparing this. If you're so inclined, work in a song, by yourself or the congregation.
- Place a brief sentence in the Sunday bulletin about the Society, every week. On special occasions use an insert.
- Display study materials and copies of *Glad Tidings* at the after-church coffee hour. Have a member present to answer questions and invite people to the meeting.
- Place information about your group plus copies of *Glad Tidings* in the pamphlet rack if you have one.

In the community

- Most local newspapers welcome free announcement items. Find out when the deadline is, and make the item brief. If a special speaker is coming and you can supply a photo of her/him, so much the better.
- Afterwards, follow up with a brief news item telling what took place, emphasizing program content. Items like this help build interest in future meetings. They also let your community know you are a lively group of women doing interesting things.
- Cable TV stations offer free public service announcements.
- Whatever you send, make sure your name, address and phone number appear, in case further information is needed.

- For special events, the newspaper or TV station might be interested in sending someone to your meeting. Radio stations will often do brief voice interviews over the phone.
- Become aware of columnists. If you notice someone who writes about issues related to your theme, find out from the newspaper how to get in touch with her/him. Columnists are often freelancers working on their own. They also usually choose their own topics.
- What concerns your group? For instance, if your community is debating the issue of welfare cuts, provisions in day care, early childhood education or changes in health care, write a letter to the editor expressing your views. And be sure to say who you represent!
- Have a display at local conferences, or fall fairs. Be sure someone is there to answer questions and hand out literature.
- In these days of computers, it's easy to make posters to place in store windows, on bulletin boards, anywhere people gather. Make sure these are removed after the meeting, outdated material reflects poorly on your group.
- One of the most effective publicity methods is word of mouth. Get on the phone, ask each member to phone five other women.

Enthusiasm builds enthusiasm. Where that is present, people will follow.

After all, that's how the women at the tomb convinced those sceptical men that something amazing had happened.

Valerie Dunn is publisher/editor of Hi-Rise, a community newspaper in the east end of Metro Toronto, and a member of the Glad Tidings Editorial Working Group. She was formerly on the staff of The Presbyterian Record and of the Women's Missionary Society.

This article will be reproduced for your use in pamphlet form.

Guatemala Bound

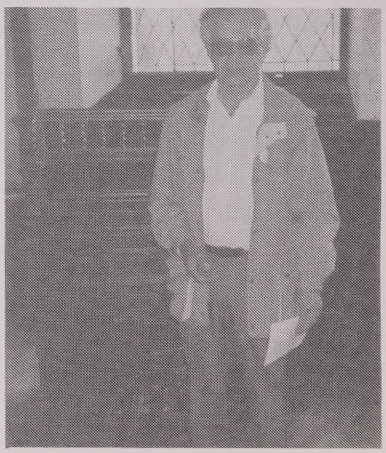
Ernest Mutch, a retired vocational school teacher, left his home in Hazelbrook, Prince Edward Island on January 5th, 1996 bound for the warm climate of Guatemala. He travelled on a school bus which will be left at a Street Childrens Program in Quetzaltenango. The twelve day trip was the fifth trip to Guatemala for Mr. Mutch who founded a vocational program in 1993 at CEIPA, the Ecumenical Center of Integrated Ministry, in an attempt to improve the quality of life for the street children.

Accompanying Mr. Mutch were 15 other people, including Vicky Gabereau, host of a CBC afternoon program in Vancouver. Ms. Gabereau and her soundman joined the 'Maritime group' in Texas.

Mr. Mutch will be spending two months in Guatemala visiting refugees who have returned from refugee camps in Mexico. The refugees continue to endure human rights abuses, struggle to buy land and reestablish their lives in their homeland. He has been instrumental in assisting a number of projects there: a school for 90 indigenous children operating with volunteer teachers; a cattle raising project for 400 refugee families recently returned from Mexico and a food raising project in the agricultural sector.

Often we wonder what difference one individual here in Canada can make to the millions of disadvantaged people in the world. Mr. Mutch is an example of the difference one individual can make. He has also made two trips to Cuba and was involved in raising aid and collecting a truck load of supplies which was sent to Cuba. For more information contact Mr. Mutch at: R. R. #1, Charlottetown, PEI C1A 7J6. Phone: 902-569-3110.

- Janice Carter

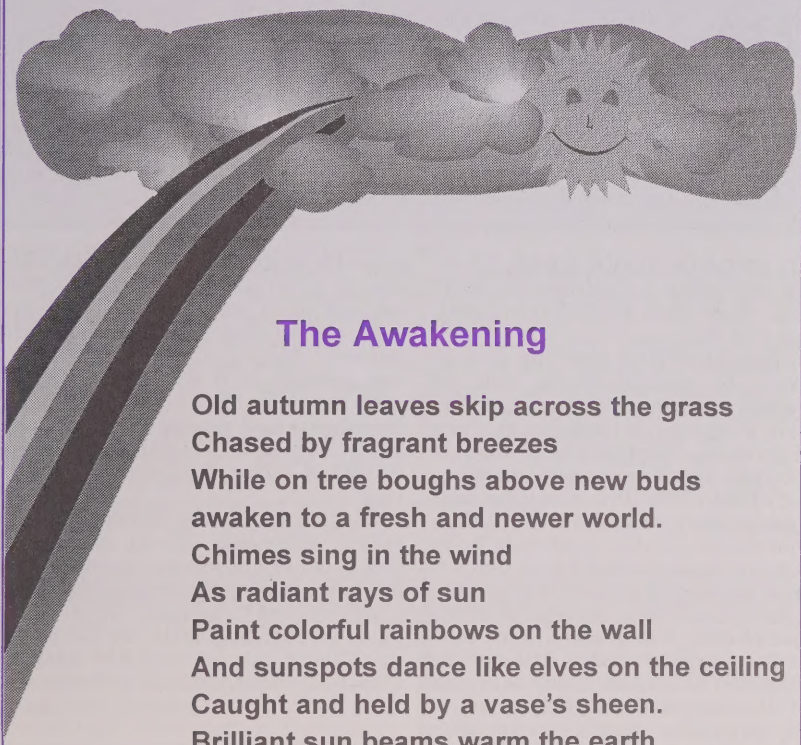


- Ernest Mutch

Watch for the article by Margaret Cato, promised last issue. Other events necessitated we hold her article over.

Correction: Apologies to M. G. Wincott whose "Prayer for Servanthood" appeared on p 9, January/February 1996. Lines 7-8 should read:

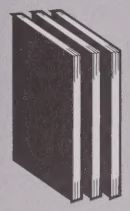
Why, when we know the essence of
Christian faith is *love (not one)*?



The Awakening

Old autumn leaves skip across the grass
Chased by fragrant breezes
While on tree boughs above new buds
awaken to a fresh and newer world.
Chimes sing in the wind
As radiant rays of sun
Paint colorful rainbows on the wall
And sunspots dance like elves on the ceiling
Caught and held by a vase's sheen.
Brilliant sun beams warm the earth
And we, asleep, are now awakened by
The dazzling sun - and the renewal
Of Easter!

Grace Hartley



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THE ANGELS HAVE LEFT US *by Hugh McCullum. Published by WCC Publications (Risk Book Series - #66). Price $17.50.*

This book is a "must read" for anyone seeking to understand the role of Christian witness in this world and the failure of people of faith to truly hear and act on the Word of God. Rwanda is more than the most significant holocaust of the 1990s. It is more than brutal genocide. It represents the failure of the church, as the world-wide Body of Christ, to comprehend its mission.

The killing fields of Rwanda were the very places the missionaries established to bring Christianity to the people. The weapons used to kill and the motives for killing implicate everyone who sees people from different countries, cultures or lifestyles as not quite equal in their humanity and not quite worthy of full rights and freedom to live the "abundant life." McCullum says: "There are no gas chambers in Rwanda, just bleeding churches, schools and hospitals [p. xviii]."

What went wrong? Even when we Christians knew of the potential for tragedy in Rwanda, we did not respond. Even when the pictures rolled across our television screens, we turned the channel or forgot the horror in the busyness of our own lives. And our Christian brothers and sisters died on the cross of our indifference.

It is not a pleasant sight to come face to face with humanity's failure to live with peace, justice and reconciliation. It is not pleasant to have to confess our sin of participating in the carnage that was and still is Rwanda (*and Burundi, Nigeria, Kenya and Bosnia) and* perhaps even our own backyard with the poor, the refugee and other disenfranchised people who challenge us to live lives consistent with the Gospel of caring, forgiveness and service.

McCullum's book documents the horror of Rwanda, but its message is that it could happen anywhere people fail to respond to the signs of the time. I recommend this book as a study guide for learning about the Gospel in the Church that is truly the Body of Christ - in this world and in the future.

Catherine G. Chalin

MOMENTS IN TIME *by Margaret Flory. Published by Friendship Press, New York. Price $8.25.*

Margaret Flory in her book *Moments in Time* gives glimpses of her life and times. Her early vocation was teaching, and all her life she was involved with youth. After serving for a time as a staff person for a Presbyterian women's program in the United States, she was appointed "missionary-at-large" in Asia. She directed experimental ministries, and was an associate for ecumenical sharing of resources in her later years of work.

The vignettes tell of her contribution to the ecumenical movement over

a period of six decades. She touched many lives worldwide. As a storyteller, Margaret describes a time, place or happening with great impact; yet, she can laugh at herself and show her own vulnerability. Her interesting stories tell of her journeys to places worldwide and her interaction with people - revealing the universal church in action.

Mentioned are her experiences with the World Student Christian Federation, Coretta and Martin Luther King, Margaret Mead, and so on.

Moments in Time, One Woman's Ecumenical Journey by Margaret Flory, is a collection of exciting stories that will delight the reader.

Elizabeth Heath

EVERYDAY PARABLES *by James Taylor. Published by Wood Lake Books. Price $14.95.*

The author contends that we don't see God clearly in the everyday world around us. He has the greatest respect for the way Jesus used parables in His teaching. James Taylor, therefore, has worked with groups to develop their own parables around everyday items. This book is the result -- using commonplace things like a potato peeler, a box of Kleenex, a cheque blank, a coffee mug and even porridge!

The insights revealed are very human and point the reader to see new involvements of God in our everyday life.

I really enjoyed reading this book -- it gave me a desire to create my own parables.

I've felt very comfortable using this book as a devotional in women's groups. I can also see adapting some of these parables to make a children's story. (Ready-made visual aids!)

Everyday Parables would be a valuable addition to your home or church library.

Laurie Jackson

RESOURCES RELATED TO THIS ISSUE OF GLAD TIDINGS

WORLD MAP - PETERS PROJECTION

This map, the work of the German historian Arno Peters, corrects the distortions of traditional maps so that countries, continents and oceans are shown according to their actual size.

Friendship Press, with the support of United Nations Development Programme, has published this map. The revised edition reflects recent changes in Europe, including a unified Germany, and the Republics of the former USSR.

G5578 Wall Map - folded $15.00
G4054 Wall Map - rolled $17.00
G4074 Place Mat - 11" x 17" laminated $7.65

G4214 - AN ALPHABET OF MISSION by Alfred Jones. Friendship Press, 1991. From A to Z, this book gives us a language for mission. In addition to its educational value, each entry is accompanied by an appropriate scriptural passage and short prayer, and so can be used as a worship resource. $4.50

G4303 - STORIES OF SURVIVAL - Conversations with Native Americans. Edited by Remmelt and Kathleen Hummelen. This book, published in 1985 by Friendship Press was used as a mission study resource but its stories are still relevant and moving. $5.95

G3835 - MAKE A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE, Revised Edition.. Creative Activities for Global Learning. These activities are for all ages on hunger, peace and development issues. Friendship Press 1990. $23.00

Oh joy! Oh joy! Oh joy! Because of a generous legacy of some $227,000 we did not have to reach into our capital resources in 1995. Indeed, we were able to forward our commitment of $200,000 to the Life and Mission Agency earlier than usual and it was possible to provide bursaries to some persons undertaking extended studies, as well as meeting the bulk of our responsibilities. Thank you to all who diligently contributed throughout the year so we could achieve these results. Your dedication is truly appreciated! (Because of deadlines, it was not possible to bring this information to you in an earlier edition.)

The shorter catechism refers to the chief aim of Christians being to glorify God and enjoy Him forever. A glance into Cruden's Concordance says joy is an agreeable affection of the soul arising from the hope or possession of some benefit. Certainly as WMS members we have a possession of many benefits and therefore joy can be a marvellous part of all our activities as we strive to *Go and Tell*!

> I had a dream the other night,
> it reminded me that joy just might
> be the remedy to make things
> right
> and let all people see the light.

We are familiar with the hymns expressing joy in the Lord, including the one "O for a thousand tongues to sing". Members of the WMS (WD) number in the thousands and we have the opportunity to expound upon the joy of serving Christ in all our gatherings, whether at the local level or Presbyterial or Synodical. There are also many references to joy throughout the Bible. Deuteronomy 28 lists many horrible results if we don't serve with joy but then Paul in his letter to the Romans, chapter 5, says "We rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have received reconciliation". It is that good news that we have the opportunity to share with others and it is that joy that should enable us to make all our meetings bright.

Kennon L. Callahan in his book *Giving and Stewardship in an Effective Church* says "The mission of God is a winning cause.... God calls us to the winning cause of mission. People will be helped. Lives will be changed.... Much will be accomplished through mission."

In joy let us be the mission that accomplishes much as we go Forward in Faith!

Marian Weldon

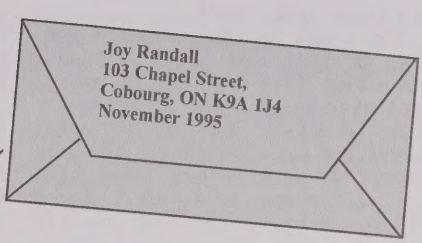
STAFF APPOINTMENTS

The Council Executive of the Women's Missionary Society is pleased to announce the following new appointments:

Charlotte Brown, formerly Executive Secretary for the Atlantic Mission Society, and Christian Education Director at Knox Church, St. Thomas, Ontario has been appointed Executive Secretary effective August 12, 1996. Presently engaged in a Clinical and Pastoral Education Course in London, Charlotte will be in the national office for two weeks in April for orientation.

Margaret Greig, the Area Educational Consultant for Hamilton and London Synod/Synodical since 1992, has been appointed Program Secretary and will begin her responsibilities on May 1, 1996. She and Charlotte as a team will assume the work of three staff retiring later this year: Tamiko Corbett, Barbara Woodruff, and Marian LeFeuvre.

Dear Friends



I was in Canada on furlough from mid-August and did deputation last fall. I have enjoyed sharing the news and concerns of Taiwan and in particular, our hospital and the various activities and areas of outreach in its healing ministry.

I visited a couple of Public Health Units and, in particular, their Home Care Programs. I also spent time with Dr. John Scott at the Palliative Care Centre, University of Ottawa in November, a chance to gain new ideas to share with our Hospice Home Care.

It has been good to be at home with my family and friends, especially at Thanksgiving and Christmas. I also enjoyed the lovely fall colour and a "little bit of snow."

Changhua Christian Hospital is celebrating its 100th anniversary in 1996! The Presbyterian Church in Canada is planning a trip to help us celebrate in November 1996. It would be great if some of you were able to come. There will be a couple of days in Japan and a couple in Hong Kong but its focus will be Taiwan. [Watch for more details in *Glad Tidings* and elsewhere.]

We will be celebrating all year with special emphasis on both patient, community and staff education programs, outreach to the mountain areas, activities with young people and their families who have been overcoming the problem of drugs, and workshops on how to prevent young people from taking drugs.

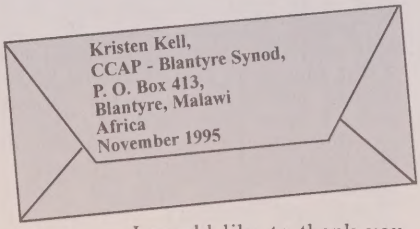
We plan to have a combined choir to sing the Messiah in Taiwanese in December. Our hospital and our Nursing Department have been writing histories which we hope will be published for November.

Please pray for our hospital as we celebrate our 100th that it may be a special witness to God for the great help and guidance in the past and to be a continuing witness in the healing ministry and evangelism in the next century.

Pray also for a further and continuing development of our Hospice Program and special training for our staff and others in Taiwan as we prepare them for this specialized caring; and the elections of the new president of Taiwan to take place March 1996. Pray that there will be a peaceful acceptance and relationship with Mainland China.

Thank you for your continuing support and prayers for strength and courage to face the challenges before us.

Joy



I would like to thank you very much for the grants from International Ministries and the WMS. I still cannot believe I'm in Africa - it

is a dream come true!!

The Child Survival Program consists of five play groups in four Townships. They have a 60/40 split of orphans to non-orphans. An orphan in Africa is a child who has lost either parent, not necessarily both. The play groups act as a nursery school, but also as a means of survival. These children have nothing. The poverty here is unreal. The Western World takes so much for granted!! I didn't realize how much until I saw those children with rags for clothes and no shoes.

I will be working with the teachers and the community workers to help improve the educational programs. I hope that I am able to help these children - somehow!

Thank you again,

Kristin

Kristin Kell is a Youth in Mission volunteer from Selkirk, Manitoba who is working for a year with the Child Survival Program of Blantyre Synod, Malawi.

I will complete this course work by the end of February when I plan to return to Canada for a project and deputation, till June.

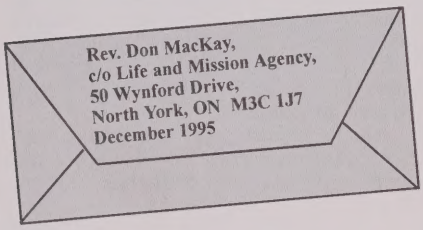
A significant transition occurred for the Presbyterian Church in Nigeria with the passing of Dr. Akanu Ibiam in July, an elder statesman, senior traditional ruler and international churchman.

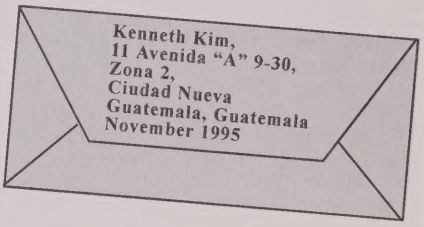
Trinity College where I have been working had a good year. Some eleven Presbyterian students were among the 40 who graduated, four of them with distinction. In our presbytery we had nine to license.

In the church it has been a year to create new presbyteries. I believe at the last count the number of newly inaugurated ones were ten carved out of the existing ones for better administration. A Synod of the North has also been inaugurated.

1996 marks the 150th anniversary of the Presbyterian Church of Nigeria.

Donald





This is to bring you greetings from Richmond, Virginia, USA. My last four year-plus appointment ended and it was time to do some catching up on reading and exposure in the various areas I have been teaching. This is possible through the continuation of the Doctor of Ministry Program I started in 1994 here at Union Theological Seminary, Virginia, particularly in the course work which finds me studying Christian Education, Homiletics and Spiritual Classics.

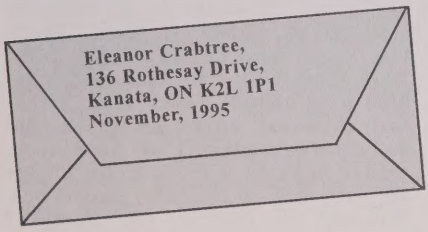
Greetings in the name of Christ. I have been in Guatemala since October and I've been extremely busy since my first day. In November, I was one of three Canadians representing the Canadian Council of Churches who observed the national elections. There were several electoral irregularities and the outcome of the elections isn't clear. The absentee rate was over 50% and Guatemala has a long way to go before a true democracy or a relative peace is present in the country.

I would like to thank the WMS of

our church for supporting me in my ministry here. Your support of $500 will be used for my language studies. I already speak some Spanish, but I know that it will be essential for me to improve it. Later I hope to learn at least one of the many indigenous languages which are present here. At the moment I have been requested to support our church partners here in various ways, helping them with their computer set-up(s) as well as acting as a translator for the various international visitors they have been receiving.

Thank you once again for your generous support. The WMS has had a special role in supporting our church's missions. I am now fortunate to say that you are also behind my ministry here. I hope that we can keep in touch.

In Christ's Service,
Ken

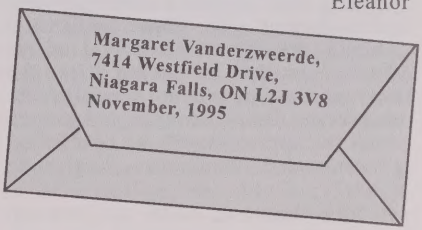


"How can I believe the Bible is true? How do I know that Jesus really lived? How can I know that God is real?" These are some of the questions I get from one of the Chinese women I meet with weekly. We talk, read the Bible and discuss it. I have explained to her how to become a Christian, but something seems to hold her back from making a decision. Her husband also has questions. They are a lovely couple, and Alan invited them to our home for my birthday supper. This was their first visit in a Canadian home.

On December 8th, we invited students to a Christmas Dinner and Program at Knox Church in downtown Ottawa. We encourage students to attend some of the local musical events in churches.

A small group of Chinese Christian students have been meeting to pray, and encourage one another. I met with them today. My dream is to see an International Christian Fellowship meet together. The group I met with are international, but all undergraduates. Most of my contacts are post graduates. Pray for God's wisdom, as to whether we should have a separate graduate group.

Sincerely,
Eleanor



Early October Marjorie Ross and I attended the Church of North India - Partners in Mission Committee meeting in Delhi where representatives of all the CNI partner churches came together for a consultation. On October 5th, the Synod (like our General Assembly) opened with the ceremony celebrating the Silver Jubilee. The CNI was formed in 1970. At this ceremony CNI honored many individuals who had, since 1970, contributed greatly to the church. Pauline Brown, in India since 1951, was among them.

By the middle of October I arrived in Ludhiana for the Christian Medical College Board meeting. As the Presbyterian Church in Canada we have a long tradition of involvement with both the Medical College and the hospital. From Ludhiana I went to Jobat, the traditional PCC "Bhil

Field". Over the years we have seen this mission hospital, area school and churches grow. Dr. Tezlo, the medical superintendent, acknowledges, with thanks to God and gratitude to the WMS and PCC International Ministries, the gifts received. An independent consultant, hired by the CNI's Health Board to review the hospitals, recently stated that Jobat hospital is the cleanest and best run hospital.

While in Jobat I visited the Christian School which is in dire need of repairs to the old building and is in need of funds to complete a boundary wall. (See project in "Something Extra".) The Amkhut school, too, is a place of great need. These small rural schools, are the mission field of the church - yet the CNI cannot afford the salaries that Government school teachers receive. Dedicated men and women teach for approximately one-fifth of a government teacher's beginning salary.

Child labour in India is a national disgrace. It must be eradicated and any program that works towards the elimination must have priority.

I had a nice experience in Bombay. I arrived by train, at 5:10 a.m. and my flight out was at 5 p.m. - almost 12 hours to kill. What to do alone in Bombay with two suitcases? I decided to try to "hide out" in the Centaur Hotel - a five star hotel near the airport. Imagine my shock to learn they now charge Rs 4500 for a single room (almost $180 Cdn.). The lobby manager, spotting my indecision, asked if he could help. I explained and surely the Lord worked a miracle in his heart. He said: "Madam, for 10 rupees each (43 cents) we will store your suitcases, for Rs 150 ($6.50) you can register in our health gym. That's members' rate, and you may use the sauna, whirlpool, swimming pool and showers. If you wish you may be made comfortable in our lounge, eat in the dining rooms or visit the art gallery. A quick "Thank you, Lord" and I was on my way to the store room with my cases, accompanied by a helpful porter. I ate breakfast, showered, swam, sat by the pool and showered again. Then I ate lunch, read a book in a picturesque lounge and left, at 4, in the hotel airport bus. Whoever said miracles don't happen? All it cost me was Rs 350 ($15) plus a magazine.

May joy, love and peace be yours!

Margaret

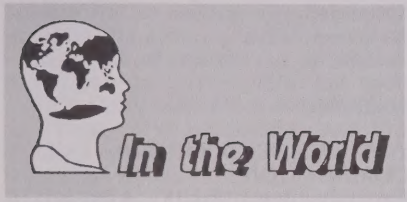
- Margaret Vanderzweerde, above left, with Mother Teresa.

Birthdays

Overseas Staff

April
9 - Cathy McMullen, India
30 - Maxine Taylor, Nepal

May
1 - Jake Vanderzweerde, India
1 - Andrew Taylor, Nepal
5 - Yasmani Samuel Villalonga, Nicaragua
26 - Pauline Brown, India
27 - David Onuoha, Nigeria
28 - Jane Paul, Zaire



NATIONAL STAFF RESIGNATIONS

Two more executive staff members have resigned from the national office of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, Glen Davis, general secretary of the Life and Mission Agency, and John Bannerman, associate secretary in the Education for Discipleship team. Their resignations follow three others -- Joyce Hodgson and Diane Strickland, also associate secretaries in the Education for Discipleship team, and Raymond Hodgson, associate secretary for Justice Ministries.

Glen Davis and his wife, Joyce, have accepted a call in team ministry to Knox, Agincourt. Mr. Davis plans to stay in the national staff position at three-quarter time until after Assembly meets in June.

General secretary Karen Hincke of the Service Agency, also is no longer part of the Church's national staff. Her position disappeared when the Service Agency was disbanded at the end of 1995, a decision made by last year's General Assembly.

PWS SENDS FAMINE RELIEF

Presbyterian World Service & Development has just delivered a $400,000 shipment of wheat to Malawi to help alleviate the famine in southern Africa. This is the first time that our Church's relief and development agency has co-ordinated such a project of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank from beginning to end.

PWS&D Director Richard Fee says the project used $50,000 donated by Canadian Presbyterians, $30,000 from the United Church of Canada, and 4:1 matching grants from the Canadian International Development Agency ($320,000) to reach the total. The grain will be distributed by the Blantyre Synod of the Church of Central Africa, Presbyterian, a partner Church.

CGIT APPOINTMENT

Susan Rogers has been appointed as National Coordinator, CGIT (a half-time position). Susan comes to CGIT with many years of experience in Church and community service.

She graduated from Ryerson Polytechnical Institute with a degree in Social Work and has used her knowledge in working with people of all ages which includes work with Children's Aid, The United Church of Canada, Community Health Centre and Meals on Wheels.

Susan has assumed this position at a very busy time. Not only is CGIT celebrating its 80th Anniversary but the National CGIT Association has moved its office to Etobicoke, Ontario. Phone: (416) 622-3979. New office hours: Tuesday and Thursday 9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

- Susan Rogers

LETTER TO PRIME MINISTER

Toronto - The leaders of a dozen Canadian churches - Catholic,

Orthodox and Protestant - released a joint letter on 21 November, 1995 reflecting their urgent concern regarding child poverty in Canada.

The letter, addressed to Prime Minister Jean Chretien, noted the unanimous resolution adopted by Parliament in 1989 that vowed to "achieve the goal of eliminating poverty among Canadian children by the year 2000." The church leaders point out that child poverty has increased 55% since that time.

The letter recognizes Canada's leading role at the 1990 UN Conference on the Rights of the Child, and in the development of a UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. In that light, the church leaders find it "profoundly disturbing" that the UN recently directed strong criticism at Canada for failure to live up to the full obligations of the Convention, and urged the Canadian government to "take immediate steps to tackle the problem of child poverty" in this country.

The church leaders support the initiative of Campaign 2000 and other community groups who are calling on the Prime Minister to make a public statement renewing the government's commitment to ending child poverty in Canada.

CHIKANE APPOINTED ADVISER

Cape Town, 10 November (ENI) – Frank Chikane, one of South Africa's most prominent pastors, has been appointed adviser to Thabo Mbeki, deputy president in the national government.

Frank Chikane is to advise Deputy President Mbeki on policy issues and administration, a statement from the Office of the Deputy President announced 9 November.

Chikane was general secretary of the South African Council of Churches (SACC) during the most turbulent years - in the 1980s - of the state of emergency under apartheid. During the period of transition to full democracy, he acted, along with other church leaders, as a facilitator in the negotiations and in the halting of violence in South Africa. – Noel Bruyns

TUTU TO HEAD TRUTH COMMISSION

East London, South Africa, 30 November (ENI) – South Africa's President Nelson Mandela has announced that Desmond Tutu, the Anglican archbishop of Cape Town, will chair the 17-member Truth and Reconciliation Commission that will investigate atrocities committed during the former apartheid era.

Archbishop Tutu said that the emphasis in the commission should not be on reprisal and retribution.

The task of the commission is to investigate human rights violations by both the former apartheid state and members of the liberation movements, including the murder, kidnapping and massacre of political opponents.

The commission will also investigate the disappearance of anti-apartheid activists and deaths in detention. – Noel Bruyns

NEWS – MISSION STUDY THEMES

[Learning/Sharing Project]
GUATEMALAN STREET CHILDREN TORTURED

Guatemala City, 13 November (ENI) – Guatemala's government permits the "systematic use of torture by police agents against street children", according to a report presented to the United Nations by a church organization.

The report, released in Guatemala City on 10 November, gives details of

33 cases of violence or torture involving 59 children, which occurred between March 1990 and October 1995.

Sixteen of the children affected died as a result of the violations, and two children who testified as witnesses were later killed.

The 98-page document, prepared with financial assistance from the Canadian government, lays the blame for the violations with 45 members of Guatemala's national police, 12 military police, four treasury police, two army officers, two military commissioners, 12 private police, and one social worker. – Paul Jeffrey

GERMANY WELCOMES RUSSIAN PATRIARCH

Moscow, 16 November (ENI) – Patriarch Alexei II, the leader of the Russian Orthodox Church, arrived in Germany on 16 November on a historic visit.

Never before has the leader of Russia's biggest church made an official visit to Germany. The visit is particularly significant because it is taking place soon after the 50th anniversary of the end of the Second World War.

Patriarch Alexei has described the visit as a "mission of good will and witness of reconciliation". He was invited to Germany by the Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD), the German (Roman Catholic) Bishops' Conference and the Russian Orthodox Church's German diocese. – Andrei Zolotov

RELIGIOUS REPRESSION DETAILED

Moscow, 28 November (ENI) – Russian president Boris Yeltsin is expected to issue a decree declaring the anti-religion policy of the former Soviet Communist regime to be criminal and rehabilitating all those who were convicted for their religious beliefs, after being given an official report on the persecution of religion in the former Soviet Union.

The report, which details the persecution of religion and repression against clergy and believers throughout Soviet history, has been submitted to President Yeltsin.

Alexander Yakovlev, the commission chairman, told Moscow journalists that he expected President Yeltsin to issue a decree following the report, which will also confirm the transfer of all church buildings to their respective denominations and may oblige local authorities to provide support for restoration projects.

The report, which covers repression directed against many faiths in the former Soviet Union, concentrates on the country's predominant Orthodox Christianity as well as on Islam and Judaism. – Andrei Zolotov

'ECONOMIC SANCTIONS' NEEDED

London, 29 November (ENI) – The Council of Churches for Britain and Ireland (CCBI), representing the major Christian denominations, has called for tough economic sanctions against Nigeria in response to the execution of Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight other human-rights activists.

The church representatives' meeting of the CCBI demanded that the British government and its partners move to an oil embargo against Nigeria and freeze the Nigerian leaders' personal assets held in foreign banks.

The CCBI's Africa Forum has also decided to launch a church initiative for dialogue with the Shell oil company.

Shell is a major economic partner of the Nigerian government, and its activities in the Ogoniland region of Nigeria triggered the campaign by Saro-Wiwa.

A statement made after the church representatives' meeting on 21

November welcomed the suspension of Nigeria from the Commonwealth and said that if the British government and the international community press forward with further steps such as a comprehensive arms embargo and well targeted economic sanctions, "this would undoubtedly meet with strong support from the Christian churches in these islands and abroad". – Cedric Pulford

QUEEN MAKES BOLD ECUMENICAL GESTURE

London, 1 December (ENI) – Queen Elizabeth II, who is the Supreme Governor of the Church of England, made a bold gesture of ecumenism this week by attending a full Roman Catholic service for the first time.

It is also believed to be the first time a British monarch has officially attended a Roman Catholic service since the 1689 constitutional settlement entrenched the Protestant Reformation. Queen Elizabeth vowed at her coronation to defend the "Protestant Reformed Religion".

The Queen attended vespers at Westminster Cathedral on 30 November to mark the cathedral's centenary. Mass was not said.

In his address Cardinal Hume recalled a previous ecumenical gesture by the Queen, when she received Pope John Paul II at Buckingham Palace.
– Cedric Pulford

ENLARGEMENT OF EUROPEAN UNION CALLED FOR

Istanbul, 30 November (ENI) – The Orthodox Church's Ecumenical Patriarch has called for the European Union to be expanded to include Turkey and the countries of eastern and south-eastern Europe.

The European Union has 15 member states. Countries immediately to the east of the union's boundaries, such as Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic have for several years been expressing interest in membership. There is also discussion of the possibility of membership being considered for countries in south-eastern Europe. Greece, a predominantly Orthodox country, already holds membership.
– Edmund Doogue

MISSIONARY NEWS

Lawyer **Edgar Hielema** has returned from two years working mainly in human rights in the offices of Blantyre Synod of the Church of Central Africa, Presbyterian, Malawi. **Rose Jansen** has finished a self-funded year as an agricultural instructor in Livingstonia Synod of the Church of Central Africa, Presbyterian. She has returned to her part-time teaching position at McMaster University and Mohawk College in Hamilton, Ontario.

Robert and Nancy Assaly have returned to Canada sooner than anticipated (in October). Robert will be doing deputation until March 1996. A Palestinian Christian will be replacing him as director of the Ecumenical Travel Office in Jerusalem. **Ken Kim** left on October 11, 1995 for Guatemala to work with the Hermandad Brotherhood, the association of Mayan Presbyteries within the Presbyterian Church in Guatemala. **Rachel and Wayne Bezner-Kerr** who recently returned from Guatemala are staying in the Mission Residence. Rachel is finishing her degree in International Development Studies. Wayne is on a contract position with PWS&D.

Hubert Budding, who had a cancerous growth removed from lower lobe of the right lung in November, is progressing well in his recuperation. He and **Nan** hope to be able to return to Nepal in the near future. They appreciate the prayers and expressions of concern received.

In the Society

- Pictured above are some of the women at Camp Kintail Ladies Camp held the second weekend in June.

The response was 112 quilts, afghans and comforters as well as donations of money. Over $8,000 was raised at the auction which was held the day the camp staff was commissioned. Along with the sale of *Chris Evans Camp Kintail Cook Book*, over $20,000 was raised for the Health Centre Project.

SYNODICAL

Hear Ye! Hear Ye! Hear Ye!
On a beautiful October morning
The **B.C. Synodical** met.
The Semi-Annual meeting
Was one we won't soon forget.

"Here? There and Everywhere!"
Was the theme of this event.
St. Andrew's-Newton, Surrey
Was the Church wherein we met.

Guest speakers came from near and far
Adventures to expound -
"A visit to lovely Iona -
A journey within Japan -
A fashion show from Eve to Lydia -
A crusade within our land,

A new Church in the making!
God's blessings to be found.
Within the realms of Comox,
Great joy! Watch it abound.

Of course good food and fellowship,
Round out this special day.
With set of sun, our day was done.
A benediction
(and great hope for tomorrow).

Norma Lyon

The WMS groups within **Hamilton-London** Synodical received a request from Camp Kintail Ladies Camp for possibly 30 quilts to be auctioned as a fundraising project for a much needed Health Centre at Camp Kintail.

PRESBYTERIAL

Edmonton-Peace River Presbyterial held a *Christmas Thoughts Fellowship* at Westmount Church, Edmonton, Alberta on November 27, 1995. Those present took part in worship, reporting on activities and participated in planning future projects.

It was an opportunity for everyone to meet Rev. Roy Gellatly, newly appointed Administrative Coordinator within Alberta and Northwest Synod.

The afternoon began with the Christmas Worship Service from the *Glad Tidings* led by the WMS group from First Church.

Margaret Moar, delegate to Council, gave an informative report on Council in May.

Ann Paterson from Millwoods WMS led in carol singing.

Catherine Leadbetter, President, presided at the business meeting when reports were received.

Vancouver Island Presbyterial Fall Rally was held at Knox Church, Port

Alberni, British Columbia on September 20, 1995. Rev. Clay Kuhn welcomed those present. He spoke on *Threatened with Resurrection* and how the WMS is still a very viable and important part of congregational life.

President Abbie Thompson constituted the meeting with prayer and welcomed Laurie Jackson, Synodical President. Laurie thanked Mr. Kuhn for his affirmation of the WMS and spoke briefly of the accomplishments of a local group she had visited.

Ann Kerr gave a detailed report on Council in May. Before lunch, Dorothy Cross led a quiz on the sweet "P's" of the Twenty-Third Psalm.

Guest speaker, Rev. Wayne Stretch, Pastoral Programs Director for B.C., spoke on the history, work, fellowship and vision of the WMS and the effect the groups have upon the life of the Church. He then explained the role of the new regional staff for British Columbia.

Members of the Port Alberni group presented their 15th Festival of Joy on "God's Promises". Betty-Ann Holland and Arlene Stapleton thanked those who contributed to the success of the Fall Rally. Abbie Thompson closed the meeting with a prayer.

The Fall Rally of the **Montreal** Presbyterial was held on October 14, 1995 at Ormstown Church, Ormstown, Quebec.

President Mary-Lou Johnston presided. Ann Blane, AEC, led the worship service. Wilma Hooker of the host church welcomed the members and gave a short history of the church.

A memorial for Doris Blaise was given by Norma Mahabir, and for Elsie Comley by Phyllis Black.

Lois Klempa welcomed guest speaker, Gina Farnell, who was a representative of the Presbyterian Church to the Women's Conference in Beijing, China in September. She spoke of her experience and impressions using as her theme *Friendship From All Corners of the World.* Twenty-six thousand people attended this event.

The afternoon session began with a sing-along led by Jocelyn McKay accompanied by Jan Manson.

Remember the Future (Churches in Europe Today) was the theme of the workshops coordinated by Ann Blane. Some groups read what they had learned and others performed a skit.

Central Alberta Presbyterial was held on November 1st at Knox Church, Red Deer. President Mary Duncan presided.

Morning devotions were conducted by Rev. Dianne Beach on the theme *Love one another for love is of God.*

Group presidents reported on their ongoing work within the local congregations and their support of the missionary work abroad.

Mary Duncan reported on the Women's Retreat at Camp Kannawin in October which was very well attended.

Following a pot luck lunch, Rev. David Crawford, Eckville, spoke on conditions in Mozambique using maps and a video.

Essex Kent Presbyterial held their fall meeting on October 19, 1995 at St. Andrew's Church, Windsor. The meeting began with a delicious pot luck supper.

President Bessie Robertson constituted the meeting and introduced Rev. Bob Fournier who welcomed everyone to St. Andrew's.

Alice Brown led the worship service and introduced the theme *An International Mission Festival.* Several of the individual groups chose a mission field and set up displays of artifacts, clothing and souvenirs from India, the Caribbean, Japan, the Middle East and Hungary.

Persis Chacko of St. Andrew's wore a beautiful sari and brought

extras for the women to try. With Michelena Kelly as her model, Persis taught the women how to put on a sari. The extra material used was given to St. Andrew's WMS 50 years ago by Isobel McConnell.

Following the meeting the group went on a mission walk to see and ask questions about the displays.

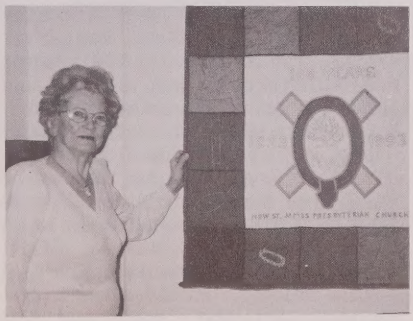
LOCAL

A Mission Sunday was held in October at **St. Andrew's** Church, **Southampton**, Ontario. At this time an Honorary Membership Certificate was presented to Kae Soden, a life-long member of St. Andrew's, an elder and a most active WMS member. Pictured above with Kae are Miriam and David Barrie who spoke about their work in Malawi.

On Thanksgiving Sunday, October 8, 1995, the Women of the Church, **Maplewood** Church, **Chateauguay,** Quebec, presented an Honorary Membership to Edith Bobbitt. The gift was given in loving memory of Elsie Comley and to honour Edith, for the time, talent and treasure they both have given to the W.O.C., WMS, Maplewood and the community. The pin presented to Edie was the one that had been given to Elsie on her 80th birthday in 1981.

Helen Hoggarth presented a commemorative banner to the WMS of **New St. James** Church, **London**, Ontario, on November 9, 1995, in honour of its 100th anniversary, 1893-1993. Helen designed, embroidered and quilted it herself.

The centre of the banner is an enlargement of the WMS membership pin that was used on the front cover of the group's 100th Anniversary program in November 1993. The WMS emblem is bordered by squares embroidered with the symbols of the Christian Church. Five different colours were used to represent stained glass windows. The four crosses on the blue squares represent the cross of Christ, the foundation of our faith. The four corner squares are quilted in the Star of Bethlehem design to represent Jesus, our guiding light; the two doves represent the Holy Spirit; the crown of thorns, the suffering and humiliation of Christ; the fish, the early Christians' symbol for Christ; the bread and wine Christ's covenant for the forgiveness of sins. These symbols are embroidered with gold thread to represent the illumination of God's



spirit in our lives. They also show that the WMS is connected to the body of the Church as a whole.

This beautiful and meaningful banner hangs at the front of our meeting room, the Lower Hall at New St. James. Helen Hoggarth, pictured above with banner, is past president of the Goforth Evening Auxiliary and a

40-year Life Member of the WMS.

At the annual Christmas Pot Luck supper held at **St. Columba** Church, **Vancouver**, B.C. it was decided that the WMS group would adopt a new name and be known as Grace Stewart Women's Missionary Society. This is to honour the memory of a long-time member of the WMS group, Grace Stewart, who had served the Society in many different capacities during her life.

Present was Grace's daughter Beth Fayers, who gave permission to use her mother's name. Beth, playing a synthesizer and Rev. Murat Kuntel playing a guitar, provided a selection of music and carols.

Mr. Kuntel installed the officers for 1996. Games were arranged by Marg Scott and Kay Berry, followed by the Christmas Worship Service from the *Glad Tidings*. Donations of money were collected for Camp Douglas and the St. Andrew's Hall renovation.

Jo Leader of the Janet Thomson Group, **West Point Grey, Vancouver** passed away on June 15, 1995 from a massive stroke. Jo was a caring and helping person who worked for a number of years on the Crisis Centre telephone, and was an official Presbytery Hospital Visitor to the Centennial Pavilion at Vancouver Hospital. As a Medical Office Assistant, she with others founded the M.O.A. Association in Vancouver. She was also a volunteer at Brock House, a Seniors' Activity Centre and was active in their croquet club.

Janet Thomson Group presented Jo with a Life Membership in the WMS a number of years ago in recognition of her involvement in the group and the hospital visitation program.

Jo will be missed by her sister Bess, family, and many friends.

A WMS Life Membership was presented to Betty Rose of **St. Andrew's, Welland**, Ontario by Edythe Phillips, Mission Convenor of the Women's Association, in honour of Betty's dedication to the life and work of the Church.

Certificates of Recognition were presented to Miriam Yari and Bobbe Vince by Margaret Hicks and Joan Scott.

- Left to right: Betty Rose, Miriam Yari and Bobbe Vince.

The first WMS meeting was held in the new **St. David's** Presbyterian Church in **Kelowna** B.C. in September 1995. Pictured below are left to right: Helen Dobie, President; Gwen Gamble, Vice-President; Eileen Paul, Treasurer; Mary Boer, Secretary; Daphne Fraser, Vi Anderson and Faith Mann.

The highlight of the December meeting of **St. Andrew's** WMS in **Barrie,** Ontario was the presentation of Honorary Life Memberships to Catherine Bray and Olive Bell. Catherine Bray is a past President of Toronto-Kingston Synodical and Olive

Bell is a long standing member of St. Andrew's WMS, having served in many offices including President for many years.

- Photo left to right: Catherine Bray, Reta Tanner and Olive Bell.

IN MEMORIAM

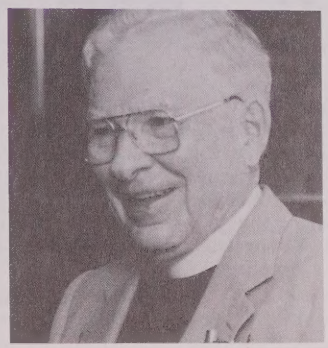
Robert Malcom Ransom

Rev. Robert Malcolm Ransom who died on December 4, 1995 made a difference in this world during his 82 years. He will be truly missed.

A deeply committed Christian, a loving husband, father and a thoughtful friend, Mac, as he was fondly known, lived his life true to his strong sense of ministry to the world community. His years as a missionary in China were truncated by the Chinese revolution, but his calling to world mission and to a world dedicated to peace, understanding and mutual respect remained throughout his life.

Mac was born in Montreal and graduated from McGill and Princeton Seminary. His red hair, big grin and wonderful sense of humour made him legendary. Anyone who knew him was the beneficiary of this wit and good cheer.

Mac always attributed his successful ministry to the love and strength he received from his wife, Gerry. From 1946-1950, Mac and Gerry were missionaries for the Church of Christ in China in the remote southern province of Yunnan. Following this time of discomfort and danger the family returned to Canada and settled in Fort Erie, Ontario, where Mac held pastorates in two churches from 1950-58. Gerry was his active partner in caring for the congregations as well as raising four energetic children.



- "Mac" Ransom

In 1958, Mac joined the Board of World Mission of the Presbyterian Church in Canada to help organize and direct the mission of the church around the globe. He and the family continually hosted clergy and dignitaries from every region of the world. These occasions were marked by Mac's sincere respect and interest in everyone he met. His responsibilities also caused him to make several world trips which made him known and appreciated in many regions. They also augmented his understanding of international issues, people and events.

Mac was named Minister Emeritus on the 50th anniversary of his ordination by St. Mark's Presbyterian Church, North York,

Ontario. Only his declining health slowed Mac's wide interests in world events, philanthropy, calligraphy and woodworking. When it was necessary to move to Thompson House, he had a smile and kind word for everyone there. His wife Gerry visited him daily and encouraged him to remain involved in activities. His days began and ended with telephone calls to her. He is survived by his four children, nine grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Dear Ladies,
I just wanted you to know how much I appreciate the *Glad Tidings* tape each time it is sent. [Two of us] I share it. I always got the *Glad Tidings* until I could no longer read it. Anyway praise God for tapes. There's always something to be thankful for. We have so much compared to others.

Sincerely,
Nina McDonald, Ripley, ON

Dear June,
You might be interested in hearing about a program which we held at our meeting in September. I arranged a "Quiz" using *Glad Tidings* as the subject, with ten questions about the contents of the July/August issue, and also suggesting words to be made from the words *Glad Tidings*. The winning group made 72 words.

For prizes I gave out "Get Well" or "Thinking of You" cards complete with stamp and suggested the recipients mail them out to people they thought would feel better for receiving them, and they were to report on to whom they mailed them at the next meeting.

The program worked beautifully - everyone had fun and vowed to read their *Glad Tidings* even more diligently.
Thought you might like to know that I got this idea from an article in *Glad Tidings*.

Kay Berry, Richmond, BC

Planning Resource Available

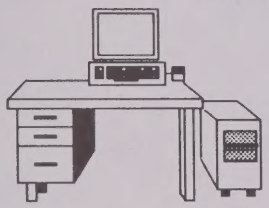
The National Gathering Committee, which facilitated an event in Calgary for Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada, has put together a resource to help other planners.

Toward Creating Women's Spiritual Gatherings is an easy-to-read guide to setting up a planning committee and subcommittees and to the many steps involved in creating a welcoming and nourishing place for women to gather. There are suggestions on such diverse components as inviting overseas women as guests or resource persons; local arrangements; worship; program; finances and atmosphere.

The Calgary gathering was planned locally by a committed and capable group of volunteers. Guests included participants from Africa, China, Latin America and the Philippines.

Toward Creating Women's Spiritual Gatherings includes information on things that worked well and things which did not, with suggestions for improving the latter. It is available for $6 from Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada, 815 Danforth Ave., Ste. 402, Toronto, ON M4J 1L2. Fax 416/462-3915; tel 416/462-2528.

CIRCULATION NEWS



Did you know that anyone can subscribe to the Glad Tidings? Perhaps you might want to give a gift subscription to your minister, a new member of the congregation, or someone who cannot afford the cost.

If your group has disbanded or you have moved to a congregation where there is no group, you can still subscribe to Glad Tidings. Your name will be added/transferred to our individual listing.

As of January 30, approximately 12 groups have not returned their subscription list. These groups have been contacted by phone or letter/renewal forms. Following up on groups and individual subscriptions like this can be costly and time consuming. Hopefully we will soon hear from these groups.

It is important that we receive the subscription lists by the deadline of November 1, because we need the information on the list to plan for the next calendar year. It takes approximately two months to process any changes/additions. It is also costly if we have to send magazines to persons from whom we have not heard.

It is helpful when corresponding to include the group number and the name of the congregation. Please notify us immediately of a change of address, and enclose a copy of the label from the magazine with the change.

Katherine Allen,
Circulation Manager

IN REMEMBRANCE

Mrs. Ernest (Mavor) Aiken,
Mrs. Wm. (Sharon), Gowan,
Mrs. Jack (Margaret) Kirkland,
Mrs. Wilfred (Janet) Rowe,
St. Andrew's, Allenford, Ont.

Mrs. Mary Harris,
St. Timothy's, Ajax, Ont.

Mrs. Bessie McAuley,
Mrs. Olive Poirier,
St. Andrew's, Brandon, Man.

Mrs. Eleanor Kohli,
Mrs. Myrhai Schaumberg,
Mrs. Margaret (Tremain) Sponner,
St. Andrew's (Hespeler), Cambridge, Ont.

Miss Hazel Gillespie,
First, Collingwood, Ont.

Miss Janet Worden,
St. Andrew's, Guelph, Ont.

Miss Isabella W. Hipson,
St. David's, Hamilton, Ont.

Mrs. Edith Butt,
St. Andrew's, Huntsville, Ont.

Mrs. Gladys Blue, (100 years old),
Mrs. Ethel Leslie,
St. Andrew's, Kitchener, Ont.

Mrs. Harry (Mary) Lavis,
South Kinloss, Lucknow, Ont.

Mrs. Mary McArthur,
St. Andrew's, Mount Forest, Ont.

Miss Margaret Y. Baird,
Mrs. Albert (Renee) Bawden,
St. Andrew's, Ottawa, Ont.

Mrs. Anne Ballantyne,
St. Andrew's Memorial, Port Credit, Ont.

Miss Robena Richardson,
St. Andrew's, Sarnia, Ont.

Mrs. Margaret Harris,
St. Andrew's, Scarborough, Ont.

Miss Dorothy McNaughton,
Glenview, Toronto, Ont.

Mrs. A. (Evelyn) Rorison,
St. Andrew's, Windsor, Ont.

Presbyterian World Service & Development

Working for Relief, Development and Education

Across the world, women are providing health care, gathering fuel, managing finances, teaching, caring for children, selling, cooking food, working for human rights, buying food, ministering, organizing communities, cleaning, raising animals, making clothes and pottery, sowing and harvesting, fishing, caring for the elderly, struggling against racism and many other things.

Too often the contributions of women to the family, the community and the economy are not valued or even recognized. Because of this, PWS&D focuses 80% of its efforts on programs that support the experience, ideas and leadership of women.

PWS&D operates because people and congregations financially support the work. It receives no funds from *Presbyterians Sharing*. . . . Please share in our excitement, hope and faith in women as agents of change.

Presbyterian World Service and Development
50 Wynford Drive, North York, ON M3C 1J7
Tel (416) 441-1111 fax (416) 441-2825
pwsd@web.apc.org

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Please report any errors/changes in address.

Glad Tidings

May/June 1996

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Glad Tidings

May/June 1996 Volume 72 No.3

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CIRCULATION MANAGER

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GLAD TIDINGS reports on aspects of the Women's Missionary Society on all levels.

GLAD TIDINGS challenges concerned Christians to reflect on their faith through articles and reports related to mission and social justice issues, locally, nationally and internationally.

GLAD TIDINGS through its content, encourages readers to become informed, educated, inspired and motivated to action.

GLAD TIDINGS provides a forum for a broad spectrum of opinion and information, thus the views expressed in features, news reports, letters and book reviews are not necessarily endorsed by the WMS (WD) or by the Editor.

This issue . . .
Mission Study Resources

Cover Photo: Katherine Allen

One Saturday Morning...

7.30 a.m. It's Saturday. I could linger in bed. Feeling somewhat depressed. The whole day ahead of me. The whole weekend.

I pad to the door in my nightgown to retrieve the paper. One of the highlights of my week, my quiet time. Put the coffee on. Back to bed, coffee and paper in hand. Still feeling unsettled. Check my horoscope for clues. "You carry excess emotional baggage and need to unburden yourself." Wonder what that means?

My daughter arrives with cheese bread, fresh from the bakery. We eat it toasted, butter melting in the holes. I feel a little better. When she leaves I take my second coffee and sit by the window.

The fog settles over again. I look out the window and realize somewhere out there the sun is shining. Only I can't see it very well because the windows are dirty.

A half hour later, as I put away the paper towels and the Windex, the sun is pouring through the clean glass and filling the corners of the room. I pick the dead leaves off my plants and dust the window sill. My spirits lift a little. I should go out for groceries.

The air is mild and I leave the car in the parking lot. The eight blocks to the shops seem shorter today. I will have to carry my purchases back so I shop selectively.

A green mango just ripe enough for suppertime eating. A pot of parsley – good for that hummus I've been wanting to make. A bouquet of flowers. A carton of cream - a treat for the kitty (who am I kidding?) I pick up a book on back order from the Book Club at the post office – *The Stone Diaries*.

Eight blocks back. The apartment looks cheery. I put the flowers in the window where they can enjoy the rest of the day's sun. The phone rings. A friend who lost her husband just a week before Christmas. We commiserate. She says everyone is telling her time heals. I agree. We both agree that life goes on.

After I hang up I call a shut in. We've never met but we chat every few months. A kind of telephone ministry. Takes me a little further out of myself. Looking around, I consider my blessings. The sun on the sparkling glass. The flowers. My daughter with the cheese bread. My son cooking supper one night this week. Kitty laying her paws on me as I sit watching T.V. The lives of all the people who fill my days. My work.

Suddenly I realize I am no longer depressed. The cobwebs in my mind must have dissipated in the fresh air. I must have shrugged off that "emotional baggage" on my walk. My heart is light, my senses alive - the flowers, the mango, the parsley took care of that.

Ahead of me is a long evening. Long enough to get into *The Stone Diaries*. But first to my computer to write my column for the *Glad Tidings*. (Was that what was nagging at me all day?) For now I have something to share: often it is in the ordinary acts of daily living that we are strengthened and renewed. But I'll bet you knew that all along.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits - who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the Pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy... Psalm 103:2-4 NRSV

Written in Love June

A Year in the Life Of...

by Rosemary Doran,
President Council Executive

By the time you read this, I shall have been in office as President of the WMS Council Executive for almost a year! Sometimes this is hard to believe. Then I look at my calendar, see where I have been and what I have been doing, and realize that life has been quite full since last May.

June, 1995, was General Assembly, with a gracious welcome into office by the Moderator and commissioners, plus an introduction to the Assembly Council, of which I am now a member by virtue of my office. The state of the Church and the Assembly's concerns about it provoked some long and difficult meetings.

July and August were house-moving and holiday months - the latter being an absolute necessity after the former! - and the Society's affairs were tucked away in boxes for the time being. But they were brought out again in September in time for the search for new staff to replace Tam Corbett, Barbara Woodruff and Marian LeFeuvre, to whom we wish all the best in their retirement.

I was struck by the calibre of the applicants for the positions and happy with the Search Committee's final recommendations. Charlotte Brown and Margaret Greig will bring their own unique contribution to the good work already carried out by Executive and support staff, and everyone's commitment to the team concept is encouraging.

October was Council Executive meeting. It was fascinating to hear about the Forum on Women in Beijing and as a Society we were challenged to consider ways and means of identifying with, and working to help, women who don't have it anywhere nearly as good as we do.

November was the Assembly Council at Crieff Hills - foggy outside, and maybe occasionally inside? - as we tackled the issues laid on us by the General Assembly. We looked at the retooling of the Service Agency, dealt with budgets and proposals, guidelines and deadlines, the necessary stuff of "doing Church", but not the only stuff, for we focussed as well on our faith and built community.

In December I was at the Sacred Assembly in Hull, Quebec. This was an experience with a difference - the Church, the denomination, the Society, as the outsiders looking in, looking on, called to witness the pain of others, our aboriginal sisters and brothers. And yet not outsiders, because at the same time an integral part of how that pain had come to be, as well as of its possible resolution in healing and reconciliation.

Between September and January I took part in the meetings of the Steering Committee, called to craft the Think Tank, that process by which we hope, as a denomination, to discover ourselves, warts and all, and find vision and courage for the future.

1996 started me on my "Presidential Tour"! London Presbyterial got the benefit of my presentation and my headcold - I hope they benefited from the former and avoided the latter! February took me to Alberta, where they had kindly arranged a chinook in time for my visit.

It was a busy ten days of Presbyterial and local group meetings and a great opportunity to meet old and new friends and cover an amazing amount of the province, under the wing of the President of the Alberta and Northwest

Coordinating Committee and Roy Gellatly, the newly appointed Administrative Coordinator for Alberta.

As I write this, March lies ahead with a trip to Manitoba and British Columbia, after which I touch base with my own Hamilton/London Synodical and look ahead to visits to P.E.I. for General Assembly and the A.M.S. Annual Meeting and an anniversary in Ottawa. In between is our own Annual Council Meeting and you can all check and see if I am still breathing!

For added to this hectic and exciting schedule is the work of my own congregation of Riverside in Windsor, Ontario. They like to see me in the pulpit occasionally! I have come to appreciate the dilemma of those in the Church who want to be more involved in its affairs but struggle to balance their time and energy with their call to commitment and service. Out of such struggle *must* come new ways of doing both Church and WMS.

Reflections on being President? I have a real sense of privilege at following in the footsteps of those many dedicated women who have gone before me. The first President I knew was Mrs. Curr, back in 1962 when I came to Canada. To me she was a hundred years old and knew everything! I wonder if anybody out there thinks I'm a hundred years old and know everything? I'm not and I don't! But to be President brings with it a real sense of participating in the history of this significant and ongoing organization.

As I have touched base with members and groups across the country, I have been exposed to people's fulfillment and frustration. The fulfillment comes from doing those things the Society continues to stand for - interest in, knowledge of, the carrying out of the mission work of the Church at many levels and in many ways. It comes from friendship and laughter and from shared faith. The frustration comes from uncertainty about the future, from shrinking numbers and resources and from the difficulty of facing up to change.

I have come to appreciate the dilemma of those in the Church who want to be more involved in its affairs but struggle to balance their time and energy with their call to commitment and service. Out of such struggle must come new ways of doing both Church and WMS.

And yet that change is coming upon us, has indeed come upon us - and the sky has not fallen! I found groups that were successfully doing things differently. I was encouraged by the greater participation of men. I was excited by the enthusiastic commitment of some of the younger women of the Church, who bring to the Society their own ways and visions, which are the ways and visions of the future.

I see, as we work with and through the Five-Year Plan, a new model for WMS, which emphasizes partnership, across and beyond the Church, and the sharing of ideas and experimentation as we let go of who we were, and get on with who we are, so as to become who we shall be.

I see a new model for WMS which emphasizes partnership, across and beyond the Church, and the sharing of ideas and experimentation as we let go of who we were, and get on with who we are.

I want to invite all of you to share in this, to be a part of our history in the making. You, as much as I, follow in the steps of the faithful women of the past 132 years. I don't think they were any more sure of the road than we are but they went forward in faith, which is something we *do* know how to do. So let's do it!

Reflections

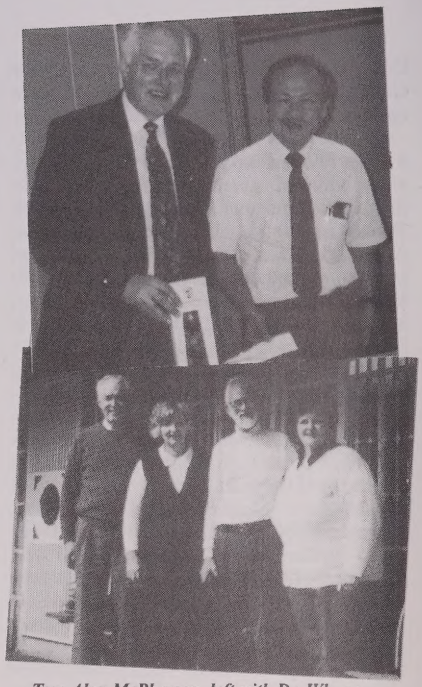
by Alan M. McPherson
Moderator, the 121st General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada

There's an accidental tradition of which I am sure most members of The Presbyterian Church in Canada are not aware. Every year the ballots for Moderator have to be completed and sent in by March 31st. And usually it is on the very next day that the Committee to Advise meets to open and count them. And so the name of the official nominee is made known annually on April Fool's Day.

The whimsy of that appeals to me. It helps to remind me that being Moderator of the General Assembly doesn't mean I have become a different person. It's not a promotion. As I say to people, "I keep my day job". Indeed it is not the national church, but my own congregation of Central Presbyterian Church in Hamilton who still lovingly and loyally pay me, even though my visits there are few and far between.

An April nomination did not give me a lot of time to get ready for Assembly. Or much time to plan pulpit and pastoral coverage for the congregation during my absences on Moderatorial business. I envied my Scottish counterpart, who is nominated in October. However, I am not sure that I would want to change the process to the one that I discovered on our travels. In at least one part of the Presbyterian world, becoming Moderator is the culmination of a four year commitment - with one year served as Deputy Clerk of General Assembly, a year as Clerk, and then a year as Vice-Moderator first!

This has been a fascinating time, and continues to be a wonderful learning experience. My wife Maureen and I have met many, many dedicated people, been received with warmth - and with a respect for the office of Moderator which has little to do with the current holder of the office!



- Top: Alan McPherson, left with Dr. Whang, Superintendent, Changhua Hospital, Taiwan; below: left to right Alan, Betty and Jack Geddes, and Joy Randall, Taipei, Taiwan.

Most of you will have read in the April *Presbyterian Record* about the month of travel which took us through Hong Kong, South Korea, Taiwan and Japan, and of the time we spent with our missionaries there. We were a rather weary and jet-lagged couple when we returned to Central for the service and Annual Meeting on February 4. This year of being constantly on the road, living out of suitcases has convinced us (in ways that no amount of argument could do) that jet-setting around the country and the world is not the picnic we once imagined it to be.

However, one of the moments that will live with me for a long time to come is from that trip. It is a memory of our visit

to the National Organization of Korean Presbyterian Women (NKPW). We met in their office building. Yes, that's right: they own it. It's about ten stories high and they use one floor and rent out all the rest to generate revenue for their work. (The National Laymen's Association of the Presbyterian Church of Korea does the same with its building: rumour is that both organizations have more money than the national church has!)

As we sat in the office of General Secretary Dr. Hwang Wha Ja, I browsed through a copy of their Women's News. The front page was celebrating the recent decision to allow for the ordination of women - plans were afoot for the election of the first women elders this spring. But the piece that rocked the fibre of my being was a little story on an inside page.

It was about a service of baptism. And it began:

"On a cool, crisp autumn, 3,800 soldiers came to be baptized. They sat beneath the trees in a pine forest at a military training centre. As warm afternoon sun slanted through the pines, a small army of pastors and NKPW members moved out into the crowd of waiting soldiers carrying water..."

NKPW provides ongoing salary support for military chaplains, and funds to build churches for the soldiers. In 1995, approximately 57,000 soldiers were baptized through that ministry outreach.

57,000! It's a figure that just boggles my mind. As I told my congregation, if we added that number to The Presbyterian Church in Canada each year for three years, we would almost double our membership! The goal of the Presbyterian Church in Korea is a little more conservative than that. Currently it is to double (from two million to four million) by the year 2012.

- Maureen and Alan with Beth and Jack McIntosh, Kobe Church, Seibu Presbytery, Japan.

Our respect for the churches we met in East Asia abounds. Their struggles are different from ours. Although the Korean church has had remarkable growth, in places like Hong Kong, Taiwan and Japan, Christians are a tiny minority of the population - not the somewhat flabby majority that Christianity technically is in Canada. But that tiny minority has an impact in education, social services, and medical care that far, far exceeds their numbers.

Our mission staff are thinly scattered now but the labour of generations of Christian ambassadors has borne fruit. Time and again we were thanked for the way that over the years Canada has reached out with the Gospel, and for the missionaries we have sent. Those were proud moments that we will not forget.

It makes me reflect on our situation here. We have visited some churches pulsing with life and some which are struggling. But in between there are a whole host of congregations which are in something of a holding pattern – doing OK, not really declining, not growing either. But growing older, all the same. Even if it isn't now, that's going to be a problem in ten or twenty years time.

I have no instant solutions to propose, no magic wands to wave. But for WMS groups and for the church as a whole, there is a question that one day we will have to start answering: "How can we act, and how can we live, so that people will seek us out and want to be part of us, and to share the joy and purpose that we have so obviously found?"

An idealistic question? Sure it is. But if we don't find a practical answer to it, how long will the church survive?

Remembering Grandmother

When the summer rain fell down into the valley
on a Sunday's long afternoon
and we were children with nothing to do
There was grandmother's strawberry pies,
molasses cookies, doughnuts to delight in
and old trunks in the attic to rummage through

When the night came on and she sat with us
on the dining room floor for those occasional
legendary games of "Green Ghost"
Followed by tall glasses of milk, juice
or cups of tea all around with butter on toast

There was her voice down the hall sounding out
softly from the kitchen in the early mornings
of my summers there
The smell of bacon and eggs teasing us out
from beneath blankets warm for a belly full
then springing outside into the country air

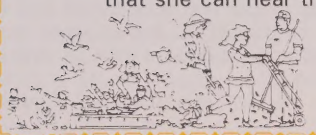
When it was haying season and the sun
shone down upon the vast fields
where we joyfully put in our clumsy best
There was grandmother's jars of Kool-aid
Fresh packed goods to carry us through
and proudly share with all the rest

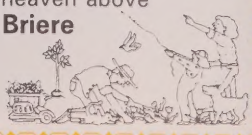
When the grassy hillside was ripe for the pickings
of mushrooms beneath the summer sky
She divided the good ones from the bad
and in a large cast iron pan they did fry

She'd casually slide out of bed and give heck
to grandfather's ghost while I took refuge
beneath the glow of my bedside light
She put the sweet into our childhood
with hand measured ingredients and the secret
to her touch was no secret at all
but rather plain and simple unconditional love

In her passing I am awakened all the more
to her strength, humor, conversation and I know
because of her earthly dedication
that she can hear these words from heaven above

Roger Briere





Grandchildren - A New Beginning

by Martha R. Fehl

"And whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me." Matthew 18:5 (NIV)

Once upon a time, grandparents were occasional caretakers, family historians, peacemakers and holiday and birthday specialists. They were happy, sedentary folk who spoiled the grandchildren with treats and bedtime stories.

Yesterday's easy going stereotypes won't fit the millions of North Americans who are now full-time sitters. The twentieth-century has brought changes to the family structure.

With grandchildren comes a blessing and a renewal of looking at life again through the eyes of a child. Sunrise and sunset take on a new delight when you help them appreciate color and shadows brought about by things we now take for granted.

It's not yet six o'clock on a school day morning. My young grandson slides under the covers and begins to tap on my shoulder, first gently, and then with more enthusiasm. I follow with a low moan.

"Grandma! Do you think you'll live to be 100?" he asks.

"Not if you keep pestering me." I answer.

We make small talk for about forty-five minutes until the alarm clock blasts away.

With four grown children, I envisioned a more leisure life, but then things changed. Nine years ago one of our sons became a single parent when his wife left him with an eight-month-old son.

Now our grandson has become our fifth child, and my role as a grandparent has changed.

Today, there are about 58 million grandparents [in the USA] who are better educated and wealthier with fewer grandchildren according to a recent study by Better Homes and Gardens magazine.

By the year 2005, there will be more than 76 million grandparents in the United States. More than one-fifth of grandparents take grandchildren with them on a trip or to a movie, sports event or museum at least once a month.

Matthew 18:5 states "And whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me" (NIV). Today, we have greater responsibilities, but also more opportunities to share in their future.

"The grandparent-grandchild relationship is second in emotional power only to the bond between parent and child," says Arthur Kornhaber, M.D., a child psychiatrist and co-author, with Kenneth Woodward of *Grandparents/-Grandchildren: The Vital Connection.* Today's grandparents often fill in the

chinks and cracks left by a faster-paced or single parent family life.

All children need certain places which remain the same no matter what happens in their lives. During some changes such as when there is a divorce, teenage pregnancy, or death of a parent, grandparents can fill in the loneliness that follows.

Single parents know the value of grandparents as a third dimension in their lives. They are the bridge that spans society with its many problems. They not only help the grandchild, but are a sounding board for parents who must make decisions they never expected to be handling alone.

Talents are often left untouched when single parents do not tap into the flow of creativity, love, and compassion that grandparents can provide.

Grandparents of the 90s are available, most are active and healthy, and can provide depth to the lives of their children and grandchildren.

There are more than 3.3 million children living with their grandparents who are their primary caregivers or legal guardians - a 41 percent increase since 1980, according to the [US] Census Bureau.

Margaret Platt Jendrek, Ph.D., a Miami University, Ohio professor studying the issue for the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), says rearing grandchildren often means postponing long awaited retirement plans.

The expenses involved in providing for children in school, health problems, and advanced education puts an added strain on those forced to exist only on Social Security.

Grandparents may wish to take crash courses in education and social changes ranging from new clothing styles to computer literacy. As we move into the 21st century, we all need to assess our relationships, and adapt our lifestyles.

- Martha R. Fehl is a freelance writer from Brookville, Indiana. She has been published in over 100 magazines and newspapers.

Riches

One morning, a child with dimpled hands
Wove coronets of dandelions
And wore the sunkissed bands
Till supper time.

One day a girl stepped into womanhood
As solemn vows and golden rings
Created one where two had stood
And tip toe with delight, they kissed.

One night a weary mother prayed
For all her sleeping treasure
Their golden heads were laid
Upon her heart.

And now, a woman with gnarled hands
Weaves coronets of dandelions
And lifts the sunkissed bands
To crown a laughing child.

Vera Jensen

I Was a Part Time Missionary

by Marguerite Cato

A B.C. woman volunteers to "walk in the shoes of the Fisherman," and discovers how fulfilling it is to be a "disciple of Christ."

Apprehension and excitement filled my heart as the plane took off August 4, 1994. With me were ten companions, all recruited from various Protestant churches in Vancouver, British Columbia. I was a recovering alcoholic with ten years' sobriety in AA but I wanted to do something significant as a thank-you to the Lord.

Opportunity came my way one Sunday when I read in the church bulletin that our sister church, First Presbyterian, was asking for volunteers to go on a mission to Mexico. I was a member of the Women's Missionary Society at St. Aidan's in New Westminster, so the answer seemed ready made. I felt sure I had a good chance of being accepted. I was fluent in Spanish, having lived in Venezuela for many years where I'd attended a Presbyterian mission school.

To my joy, I was accepted but there was one possible obstacle. As a recovered alcoholic, I might not obtain the support of fellow members at my own church. At a women's retreat somehow I found the courage to break my anonymity mentioning why I wanted to go. I need not have worried; I received their overwhelming support.

Soon we'd find out what it would be like to "walk in the shoes of the Fisherman." It was an awesome thought added to carrying the responsibility of representing our home churches.

Roxanne Stewart, professional church worker at First Presbyterian Church, was an able leader who lost no time in briefing us, testing us psychologically through game playing where it was necessary for us to solve a problem by banding together as a team. It proved interesting and also showed us we had a lot to learn.

We received a "Short-term Team Notebook" containing all the needed information regarding the work we'd be doing in Mexico. Our destination was the Mission Ebenezer-Bautista in San Louis Potosi. We were billeted in twos with mission families in the area. It meant working and living with them, blending into their lives, helping to expand the mission's work in the city.

We each had various assignments, teaching arts and crafts, Bible studies and putting on mime and puppet shows for the children, while bringing Jesus Christ into hurting lives. We were also prepared to give our personal testimonies when asked.

The team workbook covered what to take, what not to take, dress code, getting immunizations, useful over-the-counter medicines, obtaining from our doctors prescriptions which might need renewal. Slacks and shorts were unacceptable as the mission was very conservative.

Pastor Irineo Reyes founded the Mission Ebenezer-Bautista in 1993 with the help of Horeb Baptist Church, also in San Louis Potosi. He was attempting to establish a congregation in a new housing

- Marguerite, centre with Pastor Irineo Reyes and his wife.

- The Canadian team with the entire congregation of the Mission Ebenezer-Bautista.

development on the edge of the city. Meetings were being held at the pastor's home in a temporary structure.

Our work included house-to-house visitation usually in twos with a mission member. We carried invitations to come and see the nightly Christian movies shown right on the street. A sheet on a wall served as a screen. The movies dealt with problems individuals and families experienced through alcohol and drug abuse and how it was possible to solve those problems by accepting Christ into their lives as their personal Saviour.

The Mission Ebenezer-Bautista is in one of the more densely populated areas of the city, consisting of working/lower class. They have to contend with street gangs although these are more dangerous to each other than to the neighbourhood.

We learned there are 80-100 evangelical churches in the city with estimated members of about 4000. The average size congregation numbered 50 members.

We were told about the problems teenagers are facing, that they seem focused on having fun at any cost. There are unacceptable influences from the occult and tarot cards, and problems involving drugs and alcohol.

Some of the mission youth would be working with us. I particularly remember Marcello, Max and a young woman, Lupita. Recently, Max and Lupita have received scholarships to further their Christian work. Max wants to reach out and expand the youth movement into other districts and Lupita wishes to work with prison families.

Prayer is the backbone of the "Christ for the City" movement. Believers are trained to share their faith. This is what we did ourselves while there. Wherever the need is greatest, God's love needs to be focused. We all experienced real enhancement of our beliefs, returning home with a stronger faith. The love and acceptance, from sharing and working together with these sincere Christians will remain with us permanently.

Jane Fissel and Joel Huegel, missionaries with Latin America Mission (LAM), were our guiding lights; making things come together. When our reservations at the hotel in San Louis Potosi got mixed up, those of us without accommodation were taken to Jane's apartment where we slept comfortably in sleeping bags on the floor. We were tired at 3:00 a.m. after a five-hour bus ride from Mexico City.

Another kind intervention on our behalf when Gabriella's parents met us and presented us with large bags of sandwiches and pop to take on the bus as they knew we did not have time to eat dinner.

Our day at the mission started at 9:00 a.m. when Joel arrived to pick up Isobel and me. We were billeted together at a deacon's home. We could not have been more graciously treated. Before long we had grown fond of little Iris, one of their three daughters. Isobel won hearts when she produced bubble makers and other

games for the children. It was a warm and loving household. We addressed each other as "hermanos" and "hermanas", sisters and brothers in the Lord. It was not corny or pietistic. I cannot emphasize enough the deep sharing and love I experienced with these people.

Usually we all met at the mission house and were assigned the various tasks we were doing. Roxanne, Don, Helen, Joanne and Gabriella often held the children's attention in Bible classes with mime and puppet shows.

In the evenings after the movies, Pastor Reyes invited people in trouble to come forward, receive support and openly accept Christ as Saviour. Many times when this happened we would be moved to tears.

To non-Christians all this may sound strange but we all experienced the presence of the Holy Spirit, each in our own way. You cannot share love and devotion like this without a certain spiritual awakening. I know as a team and as individuals there was a change in us. Gone was the reserve people usually have. It brought us closer together as an effective team. Doubters should heed the words in the back of the AA book: "Contempt prior to investigation leaves a [person] forever in ignorance." We were undoubtedly learning to know God better.

Breakfast was a meal Isobel and I enjoyed with our hosts. Always there was freshly baked bread, sometimes scrambled eggs, Mexican style, and we had quesadillas, tortillas filled with Mexican cheese. Very delicious!

At breakfast and sometimes late at night, when Joel brought us back, there was a sharing time with our hosts over coffee heavily laced with milk. On the day I was ill, I had to stay home. It gave me a chance to talk with my hostess.

The conversation got around to alcoholism and I told her about my experience, how I am able to maintain my sobriety because of total faith and continued help of AA.

She said my openly sharing this experience could give hope to families with this problem because many consider it such a disgrace they can't face up to it and can't ask for help. Knowing I was helping strengthened my commitment and resolve to continue always to depend on God. The mission women put in a lot of hard work preparing meals for us all. They wouldn't let us help with this but Helen learned to make tortillas and a good deal of laughter could be heard in the kitchen. The food was simple and abundant. Everybody drank pop or bottled water. We had been advised to do this before leaving home.

Jane, Joel, Gabriella and I spent a lot of time interpreting during prayers, church services, at lunch time when we all got together, or just helping people to communicate any time we were needed.

When it came time to give our personal testimonies we saw and accepted each other in a very special way. We felt love and compassion for each other as well as for all the mission people. As the time for departure came closer there was a sadness in the air. We were pleased that the number of children enrolled in the Bible classes had increased to 39. The Christian stories presented with puppets helped them to understand better while having a lot of fun.

We each received small gifts and were presented with vases to take to our home churches. They will be treasured always.

I have learned recently, through letters from Jane and Joel, that the mission's new building has been completed with work going on steadily.

To wind up, I must give an example of how one of us experienced growth. This was Helen, the youngest among us. She was instrumental in helping Gloria, a young girl of about fourteen, to accept counselling from Pastor Reyes. Helen had a real feeling for and with the young people. I was pleased to help by interpreting, although the young often communicate without language, as I know

from my own childhood in Venezuela.

It is particularly satisfying to know that Isobel and I, the oldest and in our sixties, were able to function as well as the others. Joel told us he was going to mention this when they again recruited future short-term missionaries.

Yes, we were indeed "Disciples for Christ" and "Part Time" missionaries. The experience gained will be treasured all our lives.

Lord of My Life

Lord of my life, or so I say
But oft' this is not true.
For when I try to stand alone,
I've turned away from You.

I say that You are in control,
But then refuse to see;
Your guiding hand in all I do,
Or hear Your words to me.

I want to leave it all to You,
But somehow always fail;
Rather than leave my sins at the cross
I add another nail.

I love You, Lord, with all my heart,
Oh, help me now to be;
Obedient to Your holy word,
And serve You faithfully.

Lord of my life You will become
If I will let You be.
I do not have to wait for You,
It's You who waits for me.

Paula Ryan

- Paula Ryan returned to Canada in 1995 after teaching in Hsinchu Bible College, Taiwan.

FIFTY-NINE CENTS FOR MISSION

How a small girl's gift in faith is multiplied.

by Catherine G. Chalin

Once upon a time, a preacher visited a village which was quite like many other villages in the country. The citizens enjoyed a measure of safety and security. They were moderately prosperous, sufficiently religious, and they claimed to be contributing and blessed members of a God fearing nation.

In that village, the preacher talked about the good news that God cares about all the world and all people; that God wants all creation and all people to be reconciled and saved; that God will never forget or forsake any part of humanity and creation.

The message did not make everyone comfortable. The preacher did not come to praise the people, but to warn them. They were charged with using what God had given freely to gain advantage of others. This offended those who ran fund-raising schemes to help the "poor and pitiful". How could the preacher know that but for the "poor and pitiful", they themselves would be destitute?

A second group which took offence was the vendors who brazenly used God's temple as a market place. How dare anyone question their right to do whatever they wanted within the sanctuary they built with their own Godfearing money and effort! A third group to take offence was the people who used their connections with the sanctuary to build influential alliances for personal gain. The sermon was a powerful analysis of the contemporary ecclesiastical structure.

When the leaders asked the preacher by what authority he spoke, he turned the question around and asked them about their authority to abuse God and to kill those who threatened their comfortable niches. He then directed his remarks to the people who gathered to hear about God's kingdom, about justice and righteousness (which means right relationships). The message shook the very foundation of the comfortable sepulchre that the leaders had built. Many people started to grumble threateningly and many walked away from the preacher.

Then came the final blow. While the very rich came and made a great show of giving to the treasury, winking at their friends in high places who were noticing who was on their side and who was not by the amount of money given, a poor widow, unnoticed by the leaders, put in a few coins. Perhaps she was a refugee who thanked God for safe passage for her children and herself. Perhaps she was a street mother who was touched by the preacher's words and wanted to give all she had. Certainly she was an individual who risked everything she had to show her thankfulness to God because she certainly did not look like she belonged in that sanctuary. She slipped in, gave her money, and quickly exited - unnoticed by all but Jesus.

Preacher Jesus said: "She gave all she

***For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she has...* Mark 12:44**

had to live on" (see Mark 12:44 or Luke 21:4). She did not give out of her excess or out of a desire to buy her way into a high place. She had no one to wink at as she dropped her money in the treasury. With burning, humble tears, she gave all she had. We do not know this woman's name. We do not know her circumstances: where she was going, where she had come from, who depended on her, how she was going to eat with no money. We only know that Jesus affirmed the significance of this woman in her sacrifice.

This story has a modern update.

Once upon a few weeks ago, a preacher visited a village to talk about the good news that God cares about all the world and all people: that God wants all creation and all people to be reconciled and saved; that God will never forget or forsake any part of humanity and creation.

Not everyone was comfortable with the message. Some got angry. Some were suspicious. Others rejected the message. Yet some were moved to compassion by the stories about destitute children, homeless families, forgotten refugees - stories about brothers and sisters in the Family of God. Some gave money silently, without seeking recognition, just like the widow in Jesus' time.

One little girl had listened intently. During the stories about the children, she seemed particularly troubled. After the talk, she waited for a turn to speak to the preacher. She said that she had been touched by what she had heard and that she wanted to do something for the children. She reached into her pocket and pulled out a few coins. She then started to walk to the door, stopped for a moment, then ran back and pulled out some more coins. She said: "The children need so much! This is all I have. Please help them."

Eight-year-old Lindsay gave all she had. She is not wealthy child nor does she come from a wealthy family. Fifty-nine cents was a most significant amount of money for this child. She knew that Christmas was coming up and she wanted to buy gifts for her family. She also knew that money for treats was scarce. Yet she responded to God's Word and surrendered all she had.

Jesus said: "and a child shall lead them." So will a widow who gives all she has. So will anyone who truly understands that life is about sharing and caring for each other and surrendering all the things we think mean security and safety to the One who asks only that we live with justice and righteousness - and trust God for the rest.

As a follow-up to the above story Dr. Chalin received this letter. See how God takes our humble offerings and multiplies them:

Dear Dr. Chalin:

On behalf of the Missions Committee of Gordon Presbyterian Church, Burnaby, B.C. I am forwarding the attached cheque for $250. This money comes from the proceeds realized at a recent Yard Sale we held at our church

Zena MacKay, who is a member of this church and our missions committee, heard you speak last month and shared your story with us through our church newsletter. Zena's granddaughter Lindsay also attended the meeting and was moved to give you all of the change she had in her purse at that time. We would like to add our cheque to her donation to help in your work with the "street kids" in Nairobi.

Thank you for the good work you are doing there. We pray that our donation may help to further this work in some small way.

Sincerely,

Julie E. McSavaney,
Missions Committee Convenor

Unless...

Lord, we are hungry
unless You nourish our flesh
with everlasting manna.
We are naked
unless You clothe us in the fabric
of uprightness.
We are poor
unless we grasp
the riches of who You are.
We are homeless
unless we envision
eternal shelter.
We are lonely
unless You show us divine friendship
and our need of neighbour.
We are unemployed
unless You give us a purpose
to toil after.
Lord, we are half-hearted
unless You spirit us
with Your blood-stained compassion
. . . again and again.

Joan Bond

What is the future of the Korean Canadian church? What direction has the second generation ministry taken?

The Future of the Korean Canadian Church

by Esther Chang

These questions have been on my mind of late because for me and for many other second generation Christians, the four Ds - Disillusionment, Disorientation, Dissatisfaction and Disengagement - have taken hold where church is concerned. Generally, young people don't seem to care much about what's going on at church. We no longer have a stake in the future of our Christian community. Why? What has happened to us?

Are we just too busy, selfishly caught up in our own lives to have time for God and for each other? Are we too much with this wicked world? Have we lost our first love for Christ? Perhaps.

Then, is a spiritual revival what we need? Should we repent yet again and try to recapture those same emotions which first convicted our hearts of God's love for us? It's simply not possible to recreate the past, no matter how wonderful it might have been. It's time that we moved on instead of clinging to what is comfortable and familiar. It's time that we grew up and faced the new challenges of this modern world.

Is it simply an attitudinal change that we need? Is the answer a comparable allegory of John F. Kennedy's challenge, Say not what your church can do for you but what you can do for your church? This challenge seems to evoke the generous and noble in people but, within our second generation Korean Canadian context, the model of church as the center of community life is the very problem. This church-centred model of community is restricting our growth, and in fact stagnating our spirituality.

From our parents we've inherited a church which tried to meet all the needs of a marginalized group of immigrants struggling to survive in a strange and hostile world. This Korean Canadian immigrant community was further marginalized by the "pie-in-the-sky" theology it had imported from Korea. It's not unlike the church of the early pioneers.

The pioneer church was the social, political, as well as the spiritual centre of society. And not unlike the pioneer community, the majority of Korean Canadian churches propagate an us against the heathen/world, "holier than thou" theology which in the former case justified the genocide of countless Aboriginal cultures.

In Canadian society today, the institution of church is itself marginalized and no longer wields the power and influence it once enjoyed. The clearly defined separation of church and state, and the state's increasing dominance has relegated the church to near impotence.

Consequently, for the self-absorbed Korean Canadian church, its war-like theology has been turned internally, from converting and conquering the heathen to converting and conquering each other resulting in political infighting, countless church separations, and constant "sheep stealing." Is it any wonder Korean Canadian young people are disillusioned with church. The church claims to follow Jesus Christ's teachings of repentance and love but all they see are groups of people fighting for positions of power and influence.

I'm reminded of the exclusive community of Pharisees who prayed, and studied God's scriptures to the exclusion of almost all else. That's not what Jesus wanted. Jesus lived amongst all kinds of people. His love knew no bounds, he loved both Jews and Gentiles, women and men, the old and the young, the sinful and the righteous. His power and influence came not from the threat of retribution, spiritual self-righteousness, or political position but from the truth and his complete and active dedication to God's justice and love.

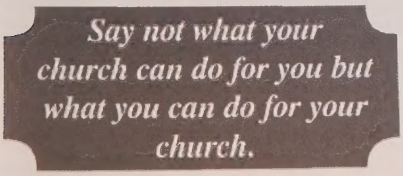
There's a simple analogy of church as a dining hall, the congregation as workers,

and the minister as the master chef. The purpose of church is to feed the workers so that they can be strengthened to go out into the world to work again. The church is not the end in itself but rather the means to an end - the means to the establishment of God's paradise on this earth. The church should never be more important than the people it exists to serve.

Korean Canadian young people are more and more dissatisfied with a church which doesn't meet their needs. The needs of the second generation are unique. As they grow up, their feet are not firmly planted on the ground. They always have one foot in the Korean Canadian community and one foot in the wider Canadian society. They're like gophers, forever going in and out of their holes. They seem to be stuck at the mouth of the hole, forever trying to figure out to which world they belong to.

Unlike their parents, the second generation are no longer content to just live in the basement of the house that is Canada. They want and are able, due largely to the hard work and sacrifices of the first generation, to live upstairs and to share in the ownership and management of the house. And so, many of them have left the basement and moved upstairs, severing their ties to the Korean Canadian community.

Others have stayed within the comfortable if restrictive confines of the peripheral Korean world. Still others, like myself, hold on to both worlds for dear life. They want to be included, involved in, and impact both of the worlds they live in. But this is a losing battle because rather than complementing each other, each world unrelentingly and jealously tries to consume us completely. Inevitably we have to make the decision to stay with one world.



As we mature, more and more young people choose to distance themselves from the Korean Canadian church because the church is associated with our childhood, with our parents. Like our homes, the church is controlled by our parents, the first generation. And whether we be five, fifteen or twenty-five years old, we are still kids to our parents. Regardless of age we are not equals.

Particularly as a young woman who is unmarried and childless I am a non-person in the Korean church community without the future hope of participating in the decision-making process. However, in the wider Canadian world I'm given relatively equal status. In my work I'm trusted with the responsibility of making decisions which affect many people. This disparity of a person's worth in the two worlds is irreconcilable.

As kids we were forced to go to church because we had no choice in the matter. And we continued going because of the friendships we made amongst our peers. Even those of us fortunate enough to have gained faith during the process are being pushed out of our churches because we won't conform to the structures and traditions dictated to us by another generation.

Critiquing the unfair power dynamics of the Korean Canadian church doesn't mean that we've abandoned our faith. We haven't lost faith in God, we've lost faith in the current system and perhaps in ourselves because we restricted ourselves to goals which the first generation has determined, goals which have no meaning to us as second generation Christians.

Why do we no longer have a stake in the future of our Christian community? The answer is simple. We've never had it in the first place. It was all an illusion.

- Reprinted with permission from the Korean WMS Newsletter January 1996.

- Esther Chang is a member of the Toronto Korean Presbyterian Church. She works in education and advocacy for women at the Korean Canadian Women's Association, a social service agency for Canadian Koreans in the Metropolitan Toronto area.

IN MEMORIAM

Flora (McCrae) Cleghorn

When Flora Cleghorn passed away suddenly on February 10th, 1996 Knox Presbyterian Church, Guelph, lost one of its longtime, most devoted and beloved members. Throughout her life, she truly walked in the footsteps of Jesus and faithfully served her church and community in countless ways.

Flora was one of two children born at the family farmhome "Burnside" in Guelph Township. She attended the Guelph Collegiate Vocational Institute. Flora became a member of Knox Church, Guelph, at the time of her marriage to Douglas Cleghorn, who died in 1970.

Over many years, Flora played an important role in the life of Knox Church, Guelph. She taught in the Church School, was a CGIT leader, and an active elder. She recently received a Certificate of Appreciation for having sung in Knox choir for over 34 years. Flora loved writing and many of her articles and poems have appeared in the Knox newsletter, of which she had been a longtime editor. Her poems have also been published in the Glad Tidings.

An Honorary Member of the Women's Missionary Society, she was President for more than ten years of the Knox and Paisley Block Auxiliary, and served as President of the Guelph Presbyterial (now Waterloo/Wellington). She was a member of the Council Executive of the WMS for 10 years, serving for three years as secretary. From 1989 until her death she was on the Board of Trustees.

Flora was always seeking new and better ways of doing things. Through her devotion to and vast knowledge of the WMS, she was a support and inspiration to many.

Involved in the reopening of the historic Ellis Chapel in Puslinch Township in 1963, she was recently appointed Honorary Chairperson of the Ellis Chapel Board for her many years of service.

Flora was a Charter Member of the Women's Inter-Church Council of Guelph in 1965, Chairperson of the World Day of Prayer, and the first co-ordinator of World Day of Prayer on the W.I.C.C. Executive.

Flora was on the Board of the historic Guelph home of Col. John McCrae to whom she was related and a Life Member of West End Women's Institute. She received an award for Community Involvement from the Canadian Government.

Flora was held in highest esteem by all who knew her. Perhaps no words can better describe this truly Christian woman than those expressed in her own poem:

What is Mission?
What is Mission? I am asked.

Mission, my friend, is the Christian's task;
A cup of tea for the lonely,
A shirt for the one in need,
A prayer for the soul that's asking.
This is Mission, indeed!

A service of remembrance was held on February 14th, 1996, in Knox Church, Guelph. Rev. Dr. Zander Dunn officiated, assisted by Rev. Elizabeth Long and Rev. Jeffery Smith.

She is survived by a brother Alex McCrae and his wife Marjorie, and by her children Catherine Khan and her husband Mushtaq, David Cleghorn and his wife Wilma, Douglas, Alex (Sandy) and his wife Shirley, and Flora Murray; also by 16 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren.

- Thanks to Marjorie Scott for providing the above.

"I"-Witness

For the past week I have not been feeling well. It started out with a "flu" shot, which decided to afflict me with shakes, shivers, light headedness, upset stomach - you name it.

At the same time, having been diagnosed with a slightly enlarged heart, I was trying to get used to a different medication which my doctor recommended.

I struggled to keep my regular schedule, which included attending the semi-annual meeting of Synodical at Newton, B.C. During this time, pain would find its way into my body. I prayed that our Lord, the great Healer, would lay His healing hands on me.

Recently, while a friend is not able to drive her car, I have been driving some 25 miles to New Westminster to pick her up for church. After lunch I would drive her home, and then home myself - a total of some 50 miles there and back. I loved to do it. I did not require any praise for this activity that I had set myself.

So when Sunday came and I still felt very much under the weather, I prayed to God to give me strength to do this.

Our minister's inspired sermon captured my full attention. I tried to ignore the pain that was assaulting me, as the minister urged us to be "in Jesus" and "Jesus in us". Yes, I thought. That is the answer - we must not only believe in Jesus as our Lord and Saviour - we must be a part of Him.

Then our minister led us in prayer and I prayed that Jesus, the great healer would take away my pain. As I prayed, the tension lessened as the pain began to recede, and I knew then that Christ is the great Healer, but we must not only ask him to heal - we must believe that he can heal us. There was no laying on of hands, no anointing with oil, only me, in my own heart believing that Jesus can and does do this.

Yes, I am aware that people do pray and that their prayers are not always answered - or are they? But not in the way we expect. I realize of course that the relief of the pain I felt was a result of the relief of tension - but didn't Jesus cause this relief of tension as I prayed? I believe it.

Kay Berry,
Richmond, B.C.

CELEBRATING YOUTH :and Children!

Life

Some days I wonder why we don't give up.
We laugh and cry and struggle through the days,
And yet somehow we manage to keep up.
We live with all of life's strange mad ways.
We carry on and fight life's troubles to the end;
And through these journeys all with Him
We might fall back;
But soon enough with new hope
We will surely close out all the dim.
And once again we will follow the path,
Light shining on all we know to be pure.
No longer do we hold in all the wrath
But live our life with the strength to endure.
We trust in thee from dawn until we die
Life is too short to let it pass you by.

Jennifer Kouwenberg,
Age 15

Reminder: A logo that reflects children and youth today is needed for the "Celebrating Youth and Children" page. Send your art, camera-ready, if possible to *Glad Tidings* as soon as possible.

Learning/Sharing Project 1994/95

Women's Missionary Society
January 1996

Thank you for your gift of US$5,578.80 to be used for purchasing Bibles and mosquito netting through the Guyana Human Rights Association for the Amerindian communities here.

We appreciate the care you have for our church and people and to amass this sum must have taken great effort. The GHRA does not send personal acknowledgements for assistance received but these are embodied in their annual report, a copy of which I shall forward as soon as it is available.

To date we have for this project given to them G$230,000 and have used G$160,000 for Bibles. Enclosed is the receipt from the GHRA. We have the rest of the money you have sent in a separate account which will be used in the two areas you have specified, as the needs arise.

We will ask Dr. James Farris to check these accounts to verify these expenditures.

With kindest regards.

Yours in His Service,
Rev. Roopnauth Bisnauth
(Treasurer - Guyana Presbyterian Church)

MISSION STUDY THEME 1996-97: CHINA AND HONG HONG

Canada China Programme

From its inception in 1971 as the Canada China Working Group, two elements have characterized the Canada China Programme/Projet Canada Chine (CCP/PCC): Its ecumenical nature and its solidarity with the Chinese people's struggles for peace, prosperity and justice for all 1.2 billion citizens.

Prior to 1979, the CCPs chief task was interpretive; today, the deepening of relationships of trust, mutual respect and collaboration with Chinese Catholics and Protestants is paramount. The primary partners of the Canadian Protestant churches are the post-denominational China Christian Council (which joined the World Council of Churches in 1991 as a "member church") and the Amity Foundation, a Christian-inspired people's social welfare, education and rural development organization.

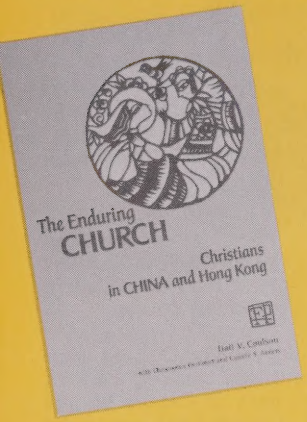
The work of the CCP varies from year to year depending upon the needs of the Chinese churches. In the past decade, the greatest contributions of the Canadian churches have been in the areas of Theological Education; Development and Social Welfare; and International Understanding, which includes a balanced interpretation of China to Canadian Christians, and a realistic appraisal of China's role in the world today.

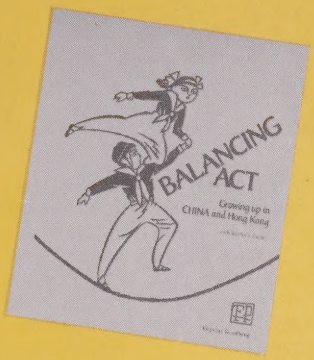
Funding for the Canada China Programme comes from the Anglican Church of Canada, the Presbyterian Church in Canada, the Catholic Roundtable on China (the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops and various religious orders), the United Church of Canada, and individual donors.

Programme: Support for Chinese theological education and enabling Chinese seminarians to study in Canada beyond the Master of Divinity level; Canadians serving in remote districts as Amity English teachers; study tours to Canada by Chinese Catholic sisters and Protestant pastors; public meetings for information and reflection; *China and Ourselves*, news and analysis of the churches in the context of transition from a socialist to a market economy; support for Chinese intellectuals' sociological/historical research and writing on religion in China, especially Christianity; provision of background materials on China, Chinese women and the Chinese churches for the UN Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, September 1995; contributions to the rural development work of Amity Foundation; facilitating Canadian Christian visits to China; strengthening Catholic-Protestant ecumenical engagement; prayer, praise and thanksgiving.

Canada China Programme works in association with The Canadian Council of Churches and Cynthia McLean is the director. For more information contact Cynthia at Canada China Programme, 129 St. Clair Avenue West, Toronto, Ontario Canada M4V 1N5. (416) 921-1923 FAX (416) 921-3843.

1996-97 MISSION





CHINA AND HONG KONG

The planned reversion of Hong Kong from British to Chinese authority in 1997 presents an auspicious opportunity to look at the lives of Christians in this rapidly changing part of the world. Hear the voices of the people as they share their hopes, fears and aspirations about the reunification, which some calculate will affect up to one-half of the world's population. The resources explore its implications for churches on the mainland and Hong Kong as well as for U.S. and Canadian citizens.

Adult

THE ENDURING CHURCH: Christians in China and Hong Kong. *Gail V. Coulson with Christopher Herlinger and Camille S. Anders*

In 1949 there were fewer than one million Chinese Christians. Today they number more than 12 million. That the Chinese Christian church has endured and even prospered during the almost five decades since the Communist victory and the departure of Western missionaries says something of the durability of religious faith. It is also a testament to God's steadfastness and to the sheer vitality of Chinese Christianity.

That vitality is amply documented in *The Enduring Church,* which offers glimpses of present-day church life in China on the eve of reunification with Hong Kong.

G5771 - $10.30

LEADER'S GUIDE to the ENDURING CHURCH. *Camille S. Anders*

This 32-page guide provides a close-up view of China today for large and small groups. A variety of hands-on activities make the learning experiential, supplemented by recipes, songs and worship resources. Although planned for six sessions, alternative settings and time frames are suggested.

G5772 - $5.70

MAP 'N' FACTS: CHINA AND HONG KONG. *Jean Woo and Oxford Cartographers*

This richly detailed, full-color map of present-day China shows provincial borders and autonomous regions, capitals and major cities, with an inset of Hong Kong. On the back, eight panels survey history, political regions, and economic statistics. 23" x 35", it folds to 8½" x 11".

G5773 - $6.85

STUDY RESOURCES

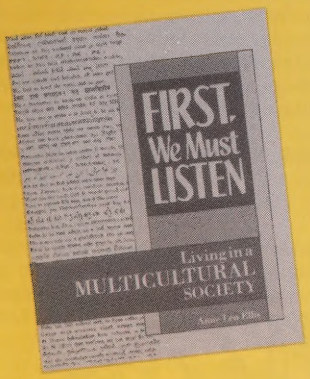
Adult/Youth Video

FAITH AMID CHANGE: The Church in China and Hong Kong. *Video: 28 minutes, 30 seconds*
When sovereignty of Hong Kong returns to China in 1997, the rules will change for the colony and the Christian Church there. In this video, Christians in China and Hong Kong talk about their hopes, their apprehensions and their faith, while Christians on both sides of the Pacific ponder the implications of the rapid growth and change in this region.
G5774 - $29.95

Youth Packet

BALANCING ACT: Growing Up in China and Hong Kong. *Krystin Granberg*
This wide-lens view of life in China today focuses on its young people as they seek balance between traditional and new ways and face an uncertain future. Set in a lively magazine format, it surveys family life and relationships, holidays and food, language, history, contemporary thought and the martial arts. The closing chapter highlights opportunities for bridge-building between the youth of China and North America. Includes a Leader's Guide for three sessions.

Youth packet includes *Balancing Act* and *Map 'n' Facts* (described above), and the *Learning/Sharing Project.* **Y2095 - $15.00**



LIVING IN A MULTICULTURAL SOCIETY
Every day in the workplace and at school, at the shopping mall or in transit, we find ourselves in a society that is increasingly diverse in race and ethnicity. Resources are designed to equip churches to play a transformative role in building multicultural communities and nurturing diverse groups and individuals within them.

Adult

FIRST, WE MUST LISTEN: Living in a Multicultural Society. *Anne Leo Ellis, editor*
With the barriers of language, culture, class, and race still painfully evident in all spheres of our life together, we are challenged to deal with the complex realities of an ever more diverse society. *First, We Must Listen* is based on the premise that in order to dissolve the barriers that separate us, we must first be willing to listen: to attend carefully and compassionately to the pain and anger, the frustration and dismay of those who have suffered the blows and dislocations of racial and ethnic hatred. Through a collection of articles and conversations, vignettes and speeches, the book reveals the pilgrimages and frank opinions of people from a wide spectrum of ethnic and racial groups.
G5775 - $10.30

LEADER'S GUIDE to FIRST, WE MUST LISTEN. *Marilyn Whaley Winters*
This guide, based on the book *First, We Must Listen* is designed to help study leaders engage group members in constructive dialogue around the articles in the text, then guide them in reflection, prayer and action. Six sessions with alternative time frames and study settings. **G5776 - $5.70**

LISTENING TO ONE ANOTHER: The Church in a Multicultural World. *Video: 27 minutes*
It has been said that Sunday morning at 11 o'clock is the most segregated hour in North America. This video looks at seven churches working to change that practice as they learn to value the special contributions each culture brings to the church family and to the worship experience. In three segments, it shows how these congregations worship, respond to the needs of their communities and meet their challenges as communities of faith. Churches featured are in Chicago, Toronto, Hartford, Jersey City, Evanston and Decatur, Ga. A study guide is included. **G5777 - $29.95**

Children's Packet

ALL QUITE BEAUTIFUL *by N. Lynne Westfield; illustrated by Gloria Ortiz*
This 24-page magazine invites children to learn about people from cultures different from their own in a full-color 8½" by 11" format. It begins with an opportunity for readers to affirm their own identities and their worth as children of God. Then, it sets about exploring and understanding differences in language, holiday celebrations, foods and religious beliefs while enabling children to build positive relationships with people of many cultures.

TEACHER'S GUIDE to ALL QUITE BEAUTIFUL. *Jennie Winsor Payne*
A treasure-trove of creative activities and teaching tips, this guide will give teachers and parents plenty of ideas for working with children on the multicultural study. Activities are specific to grades 1-3 and 4-6. Structured for five one-hour sessions and one all-church event. Additional materials allow for longer sessions and alternative settings.

The Children's Packet includes *All Quite Beautiful, Teacher's Guide to All Quite Beautiful and the Learning/Sharing Project.* **C0450 - $14.00**

I HAVE A FRIEND. *Video: 9 minutes, 40 seconds*
Children from a wide spectrum of ethnic groups are seen interacting at play and in various settings while the song "I Have a Friend" is heard in English, Spanish, Korean and Cree, saying "We don't know what God is like until we get to know all the kinds of people God created." **C0451 - $12.00**

Supplementary materials for China and Hong Kong, and Living in a Multicultural Society will be published in upcoming issues of Glad Tidings.

MISSION STUDY THEME 1996-97: HONG KONG & CHINA

The Amity Foundation in China

The Amity Foundation was launched in 1985 by a group of Chinese Christians, academics and professionals for the purpose of promoting health, education, welfare and rural development in The People's Republic of China. Initiated by Christians, Amity helps the Chinese people to link Christianity with humanitarianism. The Foundation is, however, a non-governmental organization (NGO), not a religious organization. It provides Christians and non-Christians with the opportunity to work together on issues of common concern.

The Amity Foundation is committed to working with people at the grassroots. The technical and professional help it provides is accompanied by joint decision-making, calling for maximum involvement on the part of the people concerned. In selecting projects, it favours groups that are in greatest need. The first Amity project was a health centre for handicapped children. Amity brings to Chinese universities foreign-language teachers from all over the world, favouring poorer institutions which could not otherwise invite native speakers from abroad. The Canadian churches have sent English teachers regularly since the start of this project.

One of Amity's major achievements is the printing press which epitomizes collaboration between the Protestant Church in China, the provincial government of Jiangsu, the United Bible Societies, and churches abroad. Opened in December 1987, it printed its one millionth Chinese Bible on September 28, 1989. Bibles are also printed in the languages of many Chinese minority groups.

Amity responds to emergency appeals arising from natural disasters by collecting and distributing donations from people inside and outside China. In addition to its ongoing projects, Amity annually initiates new programs in the areas of rural development, rehabilitation and special education, training in health care, and teachers' training. The Foundation accepts block grants as well as donations for specific projects.

For more information on the Amity teachers' project or any other aspect of the Foundation contact: Canada China Programme, 129 St. Clair Avenue West, Toronto, Ontario Canada M4V 1N5. (416) 921-1923 FAX (416) 921-3843.

Profile

SUSAN RAEBURN-CHERRADI

Susan went to China in 1989 on a two-year volunteer assignment to teach English with the Amity Program. Susan writes, "Amity is a means by which Christians within China and overseas can be in direct contact with, and give direct support to, the Chinese people."

After completing her assignment, Susan was appointed jointly by the United Church of Canada and The Presbyterian Church in Canada to the Amity office in Hong Kong.

Since living in Hong Kong, Susan married Abdelkader Cherradi, and they have two girls, Aicha and Nadia. Susan has degrees in teaching and social work. The family attends an English speaking Union Church in Hong Kong. They are returning to Canada in the spring of 1996.

BOOKS

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Please do not send payment with your order. (An invoice including postage and GST will be sent with your order.) Please include name and location of congregation.

The Christian World of C. S. Lewis *by Clyde S. Kilby. Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co. Grand Rapids, Michigan. $14.80*

If, like me, you have a fascination for C. S. Lewis, you will want to read *The Christian World of C. S. Lewis*. The author, Clyde Kilby, reveals Lewis, the man, through evaluating his Christian works, one by one.

C. S. Lewis was one of the twentieth century's foremost Christian authors. Before his death in 1963 he occupied the Chair of Mediaeval and Renaissance Literature at Cambridge University.

Kilby weaves in enough of Lewis' personal life to satisfy the reader but focuses most on his Christian writing including the Narnia books which some critics say are without Christian implications. Examined are *Surprised by Joy* which Kilby says is "less an autobiography...than an account of his religious ups and downs from childhood" and of his long journey through atheism to Theism and finally to Christianity.

Throughout Kilby compares Lewis' works with each other and sometimes with other writers. *The Pilgrim's Regress*, he says might well be called Lewis' further spiritual adventures. "There are times," he points out, "when this novel bears favorable comparison with its great model [Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress*]," even at times exceeding it.

Also examined are the novels dealing in one way or another with heaven and hell, including *The Screwtape Letters, The Great Divorce, Till We Have Faces, The Problem of Pain,* and others.

Under the heading "Pain and Love" Kilby explores Lewis' treatment of the goodness and power of God in a suffering universe, including the pain of animals.

Of Lewis' science fiction, the space trilogy and *The Abolition of Man*, among his most popular books, Kilby explains Lewis' belief concerning myth: "he regards myth-making as one of man's deepest needs and highest accomplishments." In closing this section Kilby suggests that "creative minds such as Lewis' get correct intuition of what is to be," and works such as his science fiction, Orwell's *Animal Farm* and Huxley's *Brave New World*, become more meaningful with the passage of time.

Lewis defended the fairy tale against the claim that it gives a false conception of life. It is the so-called realistic stories which deceive children, he says. One of Lewis' purposes in writing the Narnia stories was simply to tell a good tale. These books, among Lewis' most widely read, continue to delight children and adults alike.

Kilby outlines some of Lewis' theological beliefs, particularly as they are expressed in *Reflections on the Psalms, Miracles, Mere Christianity, and Letters to Malcolm: Chiefly on Prayer*. Lewis' strength he says is in his ability to write clearly on profound issues as "a man talking to men."

In the final chapter Kilby identifies other themes in Lewis' work, besides

myth and theology, among them modern culture, preparation for eternal life and one's longing for heaven.

This detailed description of Lewis' Christian works will assist students of C. S. Lewis as well as those seeking to understand the man himself. First published in 1964, it continues to satisfy and illumine.

L. June Stevenson

RESOURCES RELATED TO THIS ISSUE OF GLAD TIDINGS - ON GRANDPARENTING

G4508 - Grandparents are Forever by Carolyn Gutowski, Paulist Press 1994. "Grandparents are forever when they communicate a special quality--love." Roles and functions of grandparents include nurturers, family historians, mentors, models of aging and sages. $14.95

G4397 - "Funny, You Don't Look Like a Grandmother" by Lois Wyse. Avon Books 1989. Anecdotes, poetry and prose are shared with wit and much warmth. Will be enjoyed by first-time or experienced grandmas. $11.00

G3372 - Seven Things Children Need by John Drescher, Herald Press 1988. These seven needs according to Drescher are significance, security, acceptance, love, praise, discipline and God. $9.95

To share with your grandchildren:

C0422 - Mini Bible Story Books - series of eight tiny story books in the Contemporary English Version (CEV) of the Bible. Canadian Bible Society 1995. $.90 each

C0077 - Jesus Loves Me by Dandi Mackall, illustrated by Kathy Rogers. Augsburg 1994. Beginning readers will enjoy this colourful book which has fewer than 50 different words. $6.75

C0151 - Good Thoughts About Me
C0152 - Good Thoughts About People
These two books by Jane Peifer, with photographs by Marilyn Nolt, Herald Press 1983, present positive Christian values and attitudes. $3.75 each

C0044 - Thank You for This Food by Debbie Trafton O'Neil. Augsburg 1994. Action prayers, songs and blessings for mealtimes. Help children thank God for daily food using the instructions and music provided in this colourful book. $8.25

Applications are invited for the position of
AREA EDUCATIONAL CONSULTANT
Synod/Synodical of Southwestern Ontario

Preferential consideration given to a self-motivated person with expertise in diaconal ministry or its equivalent.

Position requires leadership ability to work in partnership with lay and professional church workers, including Mission education and Christian faith development.

Remuneration as specified by the guidelines of The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

A position description is available upon request. Please direct inquiries to the Chairperson of the Search Committee:

Rev. William Vanderstelt,
3121 St. Paul Avenue,
Niagara Falls, Ontario
L2J 2L8

Application deadline: June 30, 1996

2 Corinthians 8:12: *"For if the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has – not according to what one does not have." (NRSV)*

At the February 1996 Council meeting it was announced that money was to be provided from some of our Endowment Funds to assist 12 people involved in a Nicaraguan project ($100 each), for a student at Presbyterian College ($500), to cover tuition at a rate of $80 per year to twenty student nurses in India, and also $3,000 each year for two years to a student striving to gain further education in Guatemala that will enable her to enhance the nutritional standards of people in that country.

These projects are in addition to those being accomplished through our other activities that come within projected estimates of $1,117,300 for 1996 and a suggested estimate of $1,112,000 for 1997.

It is reassuring to note that at least fourteen Presbyterials were able to surpass their givings in 1995 over that of 1994. Objectives have not been stressed in a numerical amount to Synodicals for the past few years but rather each has been requested to achieve an amount equal to, or greater than, that of the previous year. This was based on a realization that each Synodical is aware of the situation within their particular area and that it is not possible to carry on the work of the WMS without the support of each and every member.

Total receipts from all Synodicals in 1995 were $921,239 while our actual expenditures amounted to $1,065,885 which meant that $144,646 was required from other sources. As previously noted, we received a very welcome legacy that provided the extra amount in 1995 and enabled us to provide a portion of our 1996 commitment to the Life and Mission Agency in the spring rather than later in the year as has been necessary in previous years. Our financial status will be re-examined at the October Executive meeting to ascertain whether the grant to the Life and Mission Agency can be augmented and/or some other project supported.

Comparison for 1994 and 1995 indicates the following amounts received from Synodicals:

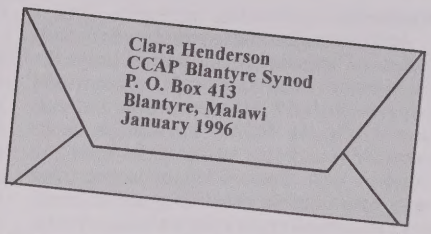
Synodical	**1994**	**1995**
British Columbia	$67,404	$70,542
Alberta	53,689	50,517
Saskatchewan	20,420	20,627
Manitoba & Northwestern Ontario	28,689	28,189
Hamilton and London	353,155	344,543
Toronto and Kingston	291,377	285,250
Quebec and Eastern Ontario	126,187	121,571
Total	$940,921	$921,239

It is inspiring to hear reports of the achievements of members of the various groups as they carry out many activities in addition to accepting the opportunity to be a part of the endeavors of the WMS. Mission on our doorstep is undeniably a part of life today with immediate tasks that may be seen as "second mile" projects. Meeting these challenges is important but should not preclude continued support of the "first mile" work to which we are already committed.

Your care, concern and generosity really has been appreciated during the four years that I was your Treasurer and I am happy to leave you in the good hands of **Irene Nesbitt**, a very thoughtful, dedicated, capable person. "Forward in Faith" will continue to be our strength and our challenge.

Marian Weldon

Dear Friends



I arrived in Blantyre on October 5, 1995 to begin another term working with Blantyre Synod of the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP). Gertrude and Paul Kapuma are my new neighbours. Their 13-year-old son, Kondwani, baked me a cake and brought it over soon after I arrived. The same week he also baked a birthday cake for his 8-year-old sister, Atupele. I wonder how many 13-year-old Canadian boys can make a cake with icing and decorations (let alone bake one for his little sister!).

Paul did a lot of the cooking, washing and ironing before Gertrude returned – an inspiration to Malawian and Canadian women alike. The example that Paul and Kondwani set are a reminder to me that there are always refreshing exceptions to the generalizations we tend to make (e.g. that responsibilities around the home are primarily borne by women and that Malawian men, or for that matter, Canadian men, contribute little).

Another reminder of the limitations of my expectations came when I heard some of my former piano students playing the organ during the first Sunday I attended St. Michael and All Angels church. During my previous tenure in Malawi, church officials had asked me to teach piano lessons to selected choir leaders in order to prepare them to accompany congregational singing. Given the limited time frame for lessons and the circumstances of each student, I initially thought my efforts would prove futile and that it would not be possible to achieve the desired goal.

Despite my reservations, I began lessons using a piano book for adult beginners. When I left in 1993, although all of the students were playing songs with chordal accompaniment, I still could not envision them accompanying congregational singing. During my two-year absence they continued to practise, receiving some coaching from St. Michael's Malawian organist who had taught himself to play organ.

As a result, largely due to their own efforts, these choir leaders were eventually able to share responsibilities in playing for the five services held in St. Michaels every Sunday. The determination and perseverance of these piano students to achieve their goal, in spite of the obstacles they had to overcome, was a humble reminder to me that people can rise above difficult circumstances and surprise us by attaining what we might have thought unattainable.

As many of you know, from 1993-1995 I combined an International Ministries study leave with a one-year leave of absence to complete a masters degree in ethnomusicology (although we spent a whole semester at school discussing the definition of "ethnomusicology" it might be simply described as approaching the study of music from an anthropological perspective) at Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana.

These two years in graduate school gave me the opportunity to reflect on my experiences in Malawi and to write a thesis on music of the Presbyterian women's guild (Mvano). My thesis, which covered a period from the late 19th century to the present, focused on the Mvano's Africanization, or reinterpretation, of European hymns to make them

Malawian.

In this context I also examined the attitudes of missionaries (particularly the Scots) and Malawians towards spiritual expressions of Malawian music and culture within the CCAP. My studies deepened my appreciation of Blantyre Synod's rich musical legacy and proved very beneficial in grounding my theoretical understanding and knowledge of mission history as it is expressed in the development of church music in the Synod.

The Malawi I have come back to is different than the Malawi I left in 1993. During my absence a major political transition took place. In June 1993, a referendum was held in which Malawians voted positively for a multi-party system of government.... The freedom of speech and association ushered in with these changes are a welcome breath of fresh air. However, Malawi's struggling economy coupled with numerous devaluations of the kwacha (Malawi's currency) have made life very difficult for the majority of Malawians. Since I was in Malawi last summer the cost of living has almost tripled.

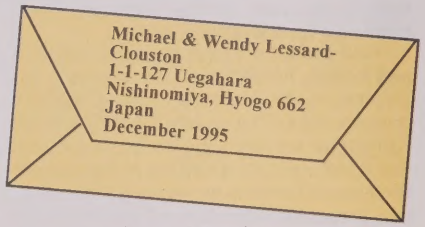
Blantyre Synod has also experienced the repercussions of these economic hardships. With a number of financial commitments and burdens to contend with, the Synod is struggling to support itself.

The Synod's music program is presently under the direction of the synod music director and 13 parish ministers working as presbytery music directors. The Synod changed my previous appointment of associate synod music director to the current one of music consultant. Consequently, rather than organizing my own programs through the music department, I am participating in the music workshops and choir festivals organized by the music department as well as taking part in the programs of institutions affiliated with the Synod such as Zomba Theological College, Chigodi Women's Centre and Chilema Ecumenical Lay Training Centre.

I have begun teaching weekly music lessons at Zomba Theological College and weekly piano lessons for designated choir leaders from St. Michael and All Angels church. I am also working together with Chigodi Women's Centre personnel in compiling an Mvano hymnbook as well as with Chilema staff in coordinating an ecumenical music workshop for the southern region of Malawi. Added to this is the task of collecting and transcribing traditional Malawian tunes that are commonly sung with hymns.

Thank you for your continued prayers for and financial support of the life and work of Blantyre Synod, our Christian partners in Malawi. May God bless all that you undertake throughout 1996.

Clara



As we write, winter is here. Our Christmas tree is up and we're celebrating advent while we get used to heating each room that we use, as central heating is not the norm. Outside it does not feel so cold, but inside it does. Time goes by quickly! Our neighbourhood continues to evolve as homes are taken down and new ones are built, providing a further reminder of the challenges people around us still face due to the Kobe earthquake. Please continue to pray for the many changes taking place in people's lives.

Life in the Lessard-Clouston home is becoming more settled. Michael was away at conferences and seminars several weekends this fall, and we all went to Tokyo in early October for a 'new missionary orientation'. Wendy's parents

and brother came for a wonderful visit. It was good to show them first hand something of our life at Kwansei Gakuin University and to visit parts of Kobe and Osaka together.

Michael's teaching is going well. This term has included article writing, and with five completed I can now focus some free time on my dissertation research. One highlight this fall was taking my advanced conversation class on an overnight outing to KG's Sengari Camp, north of Kobe. Besides being an opportunity for students to learn and practise English, it was good to get to know them better.

Relationships are slowly starting to develop. Please pray in particular for 'Tak', a student who became interested in Christianity when his mother got cancer last year. He has begun to pray and to attend chapels and church occasionally, and believes that is why his mother is now in remission. 'Ike', another student, frequently visits during my Tuesday office hours, when we've discussed many aspects of Christianity. Please pray that our discussions and times together will have a fruitful, positive impact.

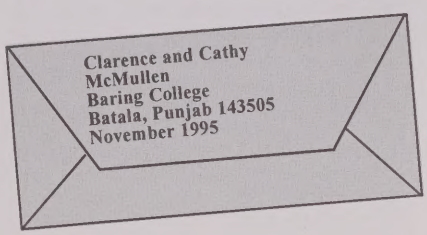
Wendy continues to work on learning Japanese, and is thankful for progress. Despite some humorous misunderstandings (e.g. taco is not a Mexican dish, but the Japanese word for octopus!), I am able to understand a little and can usually, with the help of hand gestures, get my basic point across.

This fall, I have continued hosting an English discussion group. Please continue to pray for my relationships with these students and for greater interest in Christianity on their part. A highlight of this term was being invited to the local primary school. My visit in a rowdy grade one class shattered my stereotype of quiet, studious Japanese school children! Joel and I also went to a party with a grade 5/6 International Club. Please continue to pray for building relationships in the community and on campus.

Joel continues to amaze us with his energy, affection, and contentment. He is now a happy reader who always wants to read another book. He attends a weekly play group with Wendy and is learning to interact well with other children. We are slowly getting to know people in our Japanese church, and we recently had the minister and his wife for dinner. Thankfully, people use what English they have, we struggle with Japanese, and somehow we communicate! Pray for our church, its leadership and members, and our attempts to become more involved.

Thanks again for your prayer support.

Michael and Wendy



Greetings from Batala. Clarence and I were able to spend July and August in Canada with our children. Clarence returned in early August, but I stayed on till the end of September. On my flight back, I was able to see Pratibha at work.

Clarence and I have just returned from Mussoorie. Clarence is the chairman of the Woodstock School which all our children attended. He is also the chairman of the Language School board so is always busy in Mussoorie as well as Batala. Recently he was the main speaker at a large Christian rally in Amritsar. The Christians come mainly from the surrounding villages and they numbered about 6000.

Recently we have had guests from Canada, U.S. and India. It seems that our guests and various young children keep me well occupied. I have been involved with a young girl who had polio and have been able to get her into school. Hopefully she will have surgery which will help her move about a little with the

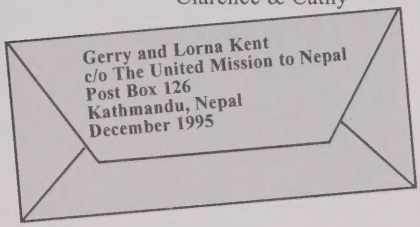
help of braces.

Anil is in his third year B.A. at York University. He is a good letter writer and for that we are thankful. Pratibha continues with her job in Air Canada and flies usually between Toronto and London or Toronto and New Delhi. Promila has just moved to a beautiful bright apartment with a lovely view. She is in her second year working for Toronto Metro Social Services as a welfare officer. She enjoys her work and has had many interesting experiences. Rajive has just returned to India. He is not very sure of his plans.

We are thankful for another year of life that God has given us.

Yours sincerely,

Clarence & Cathy



Greetings from Kathmandu! We arrived back here on October 19, 1995 after spending four months in Canada on furlough. Sadly, we left Stephen behind in Williams Lake where he will finish grades 11 and 12.

Jenny and Rachel are back at British Primary School and Ian and David are at the Kathmandu International Study Centre. All of them enjoyed renewing their friendships on their return here and have settled back into our Kathmandu lifestyle - no TV, not much meat, lots of dust, and now, after six weeks back renewed longings for home.

Lorna is now a substitute teacher at British Primary School. She is gaining a lot of satisfaction from being back in a setting where she can use her training and experience.

During our furlough, when we spoke to various groups, I especially asked for prayer for the Khimti and the Melamchi Projects. Thanks to all who did so, since both Projects have made good progress recently. The Khimti Project is Nepal's first major private sector hydropower project. It was on the verge of collapse last Spring. After an all party meeting in June, a basis for going forward was agreed upon and now it appears that financing will be finalized within the next two to three months. There is quite a mood of optimism in the Project as the major hurdles have been overcome.

We still need a crucial decision from the government to use a local approach in the Melamchi Project, which involves the construction of a 28-kilometer tunnel to bring badly needed water within range of Kathmandu's water supply system. Please pray for wisdom for the government decision makers.

Last week I attended a prayer meeting at UMN headquarters. About 30 people had gathered to pray that a colleague, would soon be released from prison where he had been for about two weeks.

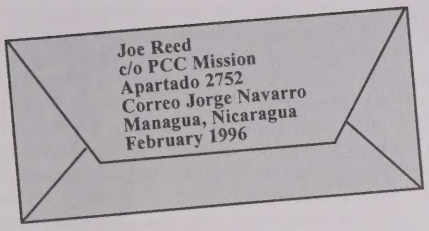
The prayer meeting was quite intense. There was a strong sense of unity in the group and you could feel the spiritual strength that emerged from the common purpose. It helped me to understand why the Church thrives during persecution. In China the Church grew from one million to ten million believers during Mao's reign. In Nepal the Church has grown from less than 10 believers to more than 100,000 in about 40 years. During most of that time it was persecuted. When the Church is comfortable, there is not the same impetus to join together in intense prayer. There is not the inspiration that comes from individual sacrifice.

Please pray that our colleague will be able to clear his good name at trial.

We give thanks to God for the privilege of being here and working together with the Nepali people, who have many strong qualities. May God help us all to sense how we can follow His gentle leading in the path of loving sacrifice.

Love,

Gerry and Lorna



There has been quite a bit of going and coming among the Presbyterian Church in Canada staff here in the Region lately. In October, Ken Kim arrived to take up work with the Mayan Presbyterians in Guatemala. The Presbyterian Church of Guatemala began in the late-1800s, but it was only in the 1960s that work with native people, who make up most of the country's population, began. For some years now, these native Presbyterians have been associated loosely. Over ten Presbyteries in the church are arranged on linguistic lines and function in a variety of indigenous languages.

Ken's work will be to assist in leadership training and development and to promote human rights. Tragically, as tensions within the church and the wider society continue, violent abuse of these rights has become increasingly common.

His first task has been to master the language (which he already spoke with some fluency, having been a Youth in Mission volunteer in Nicaragua) and to win the trust of the church leadership. He will be assigned to in-depth visits of all of the native presbyteries, some of which are very remote and all of which are diverse.

By the time you read this, John and Viola Duff should be back again, John to continue his work with the Pastoral Care Department and Viola, with the nursing school, at the Baptist Technical School here in Managua. This past week I had a conversation with the director of the School of Nursing – whom I have known for a number of years. She commented that, "Viola's presence with us has been a blessing from God. She has been able to work along with us, never trying to impose her will and always listening."

They will return to "host" a delegation of young people from the Ottawa area who will be on a work and mission exposure tour in early March.

The students have been on strike for the past several months in an effort to encourage the government to maintain its support of public universities. The conflict has dragged on for years now: really since the present government came to power in 1990. Tragically, on 23 December, two students were shot and killed by the police as they participated in a protest. This week over 100 students were arrested and then released following a confrontation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Denise van Wissen returned to Canada last week after almost four years in Nicaragua teaching English and then nutrition education. Her work in the poorest neighbourhoods in Managua will be missed, but she will soon be back in the Region, having decided to continue her nutrition education at the Central American/Panamanian Institute for Nutrition in Guatemala City. That she will be going as part of the Nicaraguan group of students indicates how she has come to identify with the Region and how she has been accepted.

David Villalonga and his family have recently returned from a short deputation tour of their native Cuba. They were saddened by the conditions on the Island and overwhelmed by the need to help churches there meet and share with other Christians. An unfortunate result of the political isolation of the country over the past decades has been the tendency of churches there to look inward, especially at a time when they are experiencing rapid growth and terrible economic hardships.

Our own church hopes to formalize a partnership with the Presbyterian Church in Cuba during 1996. We already participate with that church as members of the

Caribbean North American Council for Mission of which the Presbyterian Church in Canada is a founding member.

In June and July we will receive a pastor of our church who has saved study leave for the last few years to be able to offer his help here – especially in El Salvador and Guatemala. Over the next few weeks, I will be talking with partners in those two countries about how to make best use of his time with them. In Guatemala, he will be accompanying the Christian community in a displaced persons camp, the Mario Antonio Diaz community near the capital.

Finally, I myself continue to be excited and challenged by the work which God has set before us all. What a privilege it is to serve in this particular time and place!

I look forward to deputation in Canada in the spring. Over the past years, I have been able to visit somewhere between a quarter and a third of our churches and I truly hope to expand that number! It is wonderful to be able to share the excitement of mission and its liberation to people in our churches.

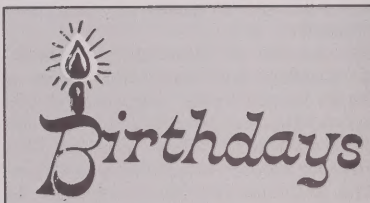
The challenge of mission work in Central America in the 80s was to suggest that news reports that poured forth from the area – from El Salvador and Nicaragua particularly – bore little relation to the lives people lived here. Today we try to excite our people about the work of our church here and elsewhere.

I wish that you could all meet some of the children who are alive and healthy today because of Denise' work. Or see the children's eyes light up in the Barrio Jorge Dimitrov when John Duff arrives. Or talk to peasants who have been touched by David Villalonga. Or meet the widow of the pastor murdered by political thugs in Guatemala last year when Ken visits. Our church is involved in exciting, passionate work here and around the world. Thank you for making it possible.

Joe

Stewart Gillan has been working on his PhD, the topic of his thesis being a community-based theology of land restitution. Stewart says, "I have written my way through it, and in the process had to invent in part a vocabulary to express in English what voices in Sotho, Tswana, Pedi and Zulu were saying theologically. Terms like multivalent integrality (religio-cultural and socio-economic and political together within an integral worldview re: the spiritual and the material), inter-traditionality, and relationality (or relational rationality) in grounded hermeneutics, may not become household words, but they certainly have become part of my written world!"

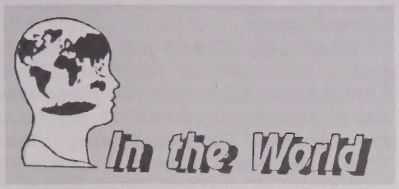
In closing he adds, "I am looking forward to seeing my parish people again. It's been too long this time. And too long in front of this screen. Liberation beckons."



Overseas Staff

June
10 - Dick Paul, Zaire
10 - Joy Randall, Taiwan
15 - Wendy Lessard-Clouston, Japan
20 - Clarence McMullen, India
22 - George Loom, Kenya
22 - Rebecca Leona Onuoha, Nigeria
26 - Miriam Barrie, Malawi

July
2 - Jennifer Kent, Nepal
19 - Ian Clark, Kenya
29 - Marie Rempel, Mauritius
30 - Brian Crosby, Mauritius
31 - Jonathan Schwarz, Nepal



CANADIAN THEOLOGIAN RENOUNCES CHRISTIANITY

Ottawa, 4 January (ENI) - A leading Canadian theologian has renounced Christianity, declaring that she can no longer accept the maleness of God in the Christian tradition.

Mary T. Malone, a leading church historian and associate professor at the University of St. Jerome's College at Waterloo, Canada, told the Tablet, a Roman Catholic magazine in London: "I finally had to admit that I can no longer worship or pray."

Malone, who was formerly a nun in the Roman Catholic order, Faithful Companions of Jesus, has written extensively about historical understanding of the Virgin Mary and about the feminine aspect of God. However, despite her attempts to emphasize the female elements of Christianity, she said after her decision: "At the base of all official and most non-official writing, God is male."

PALESTINIAN RECOGNITION TO CHRISTMAS

Bethlehem, 3 January (ENI) - During Christmas celebrations in the Holy Land, Yasser Arafat made a major effort to dispel the anxiety of Christians about their status in a Muslim-led Palestine.

The president of the Palestinian National Authority made an important pro-Christian speech two days before Christmas, telling thousands of residents and pilgrims in Manger Square in Bethlehem, that Jesus had been "a Palestinian revolutionary". Arafat also referred to Jesus as Saviour and Messiah. Muslims recognize Christ as a prophet and also honor his mother.

Speaking to the crowds who were celebrating the first Christmas in Christ's birthplace since the withdrawal of Israeli occupation troops from the town, Arafat also proclaimed that Christmas Day would be recognized as a national holiday in Palestine. Some of the first Palestinian postage stamps depict Christian holy sites.

Many people living in the region believe that Arafat is willing to stand up to Islamic fundamentalists who could pose a threat to local Christians. However a small, right-wing group of expatriate Christians in Jerusalem, who have set up an organization called the International Christian Embassy, had urged visitors to boycott Bethlehem Christmas observances "to protest Muslim oppression of Christians in the Middle East". – Martin Bailey

MORE INDEPENDENCE

The Church of Sweden synod in August, 1995 accepted the basic elements of a government proposal for new church-state relations, to come into effect in the year 2000, reports LWI.

The highest authority of the 7.6 million-member Lutheran church will be shifted from parliament to the synod. Currently paid by all Swedes, church taxes will be abolished and a compulsory membership fee, determined by local congregations, will be introduced. Thus in the new system the fee will be collected only from church members. Property will remain in the church's possession, and it will continue to take care of most cemeteries.

The Church of Sweden decided a year ago that from 1 January 1996 children will no longer be automatically registered as church members. Baptism will be the normal way to church membership, and the church is preparing a promotional campaign to encourage baptism.

MACKAY STATUE DEDICATED

A statue of George Leslie Mackay, missionary, doctor and educator, was dedicated on November 19 [1995] in the northern

port of Tamsui, where, at the end of the last century, the Canadian altruist worked to improve life in frontier Taiwan. The statue was unveiled by his grandchildren, John Ross Mackay and Anna Mackay. Also present at the ceremony were Jack Chen, Tamsui township chief, Hugh Stephens, director of the Canadian Trade Office in Taipei, and legislative and Taipei County representatives.

The Mackay statue is one in a series of statues to be erected throughout Taipei County in recognition of people who have made historical contributions to improving the welfare of Taiwan residents. - Yueh Ching, Staff Writer, Taiwan

NESTLE BOYCOTT RENEWED

Consumers are once again being urged to boycott products of the multinational corporate giant, Nestlé. Nestlé continues to aggressively pursue sales of artificial baby food endangering the lives of children in developing countries. Nestlé's policies of making free samples available

The most recent list INFACT has of products to boycott is printed below. Clip and refer to when grocery shopping:

Chocolates and Candy:
Laura Secord, After Eight, Baby Ruth, Bit O Honey, Butterfinger, Chunky Goobers, Alpine White Chocolate, Nestlé Crunch, Nestlé Milk Chocolate Bar, Kit Kat, Raisinets, Smarties, Nestlé Beich fund-raising chocolate, Black Magic, Turtles, Coffee Crisp, Aero, Baci, Quality Street, Mirage

Ice Cream:
Laura Secord, Nestlé Crunch, Drumstick, Mr. Big, Haagen Dazs ice cream bars.

Pet Foods:
Carnation Mighty Dog, Friskies, Dr. Ballard's, Miss Mew, Alpo, Cheweez dog treats

Beverage Products:
Carnation Hot Chocolate, Carnation powdered milks and specialty coffees, Nestlé's Quick, Perrier, Poland Spring Water, Vittel Water, Libby's juices, Calistoga, Goodhost

Coffees and Teas:
Hills' Brothers, MJB Coffee and Tea, Nescafé, Nestea, Taster's Choice, Encore, Club, Movenpick

Baking Products:
Carnation Evaporated Milk, Nestlé Cocoa, Nestlé Baking Bars, Nestlé Toll House Chips

Stouffers Foods:
frozen foods, food service supplies, Lean Cuisine

Miscellaneous:
Buitoni pastas and sauces, Coffee Mate, Contadina pastas and sauces, Crosse and Blackwell, Maggi seasonings and soups, MJB rice and rice mixes.

Cosmetics and Eye Care:
Alcon Labs, L'Oréal, Warner

Wine World Wines:
Beringer, Chateau Souverain, Los Hermanos, Nappa Ridge

Nestlé has marketing agreements with: Nabisco, Walt Disney, Movenpick, Ault Foods (Sealtest Dairies), Coca Cola (Nestea).

to clinics and hospitals in effect discourages mothers from breastfeeding and contributes to infant deaths from improper use of formula and unsafe water supplies. According to UNICEF one and a half million babies die every year because they are not breastfed.

Nestlé has repeatedly breached the 1981 World Health Organization International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes. This proposes strict controls on the activities of manufacturers and calls for a ban on all promotion of breastmilk substitutes. There have been hundreds of allegations against Nestlé for breaching the code.

A recent example in India of a violation of the Act is the labelling on tins of baby food which should say, "mother's milk is best for your baby", not only in English but also in Hindi. However there is nothing written in Hindi.

The boycott, first launched in 1974, was called off in 1984 when Nestlé appeared willing to comply with critics. It was renewed in 1988. According to Elisabeth Sterken of INFACT Canada the situation which requires constant monitoring has become serious enough to once again attract concern worldwide.

It is difficult to pin down Nestlé's products since they vary from country to country and information is not always up-to-date. However consumers are advised to not only boycott their products but to write the company to let them know their policies are not approved of. Consumers should be aware that Nestlé's response may be to deny any violations. Write to: Nestlé, Box/C.P. 7200, Willowdale B, Ontario M2K 2Z2. Tel: (416) 218-2681 Fax (416) 218-2762

For more information contact: Elisabeth Sterken, INFACT Canada, 10 Trinity Square, Toronto, ON M5G 1B1. Tel: 416-595-9819.

Dear June:

It was with great interest that I read the article "Seeing Things Through New Eyes" by your lovely daughter Laura.

As a self-funded volunteer for the Presbyterian Church in Canada, your daughter had a rich experience, which as she says changed her as a person. Reading her story, we can all appreciate even more, how fortunate we are to be blessed with our standard of living we enjoy in Canada, and to be more concerned with the plight of others. While there, she did what she could to help.

Glad Tidings continues to inspire with so much information, as you deal with social justice issues, the mission work - programs, poetry, and much more.

May you continue the good work.

Nellie Dickey,
Prescott, ON

I found this tape [November/December 1995] very interesting and informative. Thanks to the readers who do such a good job of it (not too fast) and clear. I have ear as well as eye problems and appreciate the clear reading.

Sincerely,
Nina McDonald,
Ripley, ON

Dear June:

Thoroughly enjoyed your story of your Christmas dolls. I was visiting a friend in hospital in December and she was reading that editorial with tears in her eyes. We both agreed that we were deeply touched that you could share this story in such a sensitive way; and reminding us of how war affects so many people at so many different levels.

Kass Whitefield,
Cobourg, ON.

In the Society

SYNODICAL

Rev. Raymond Hodgson was inducted to the position of regional staff person for **Manitoba/Northwestern Ontario** on January 28 at St. Andrew's Church, Winnipeg. At the request of the Synod, the service was conducted by the Presbytery of Winnipeg, with Rev. Deborah Lannon, Moderator, presiding.

Participating in the service were Rev. David Wilson, Moderator of Synod and Brenda Fraser, Clerk of Synod. The sermon was preached by Rev. Michael Farris, minister of First Church; the charge given by Rev. Beth McCutcheon, minister of St. James Church; the lessons read by Jean Campbell, Convenor of the Synod Regional Council.

In her charge to the incumbent, Miss McCutcheon stressed the close association of our Synod with our Synodical. The service was preceded by a Pot Luck Supper and time of fellowship. People were present from Brandon, Superior and Winnipeg Presbyteries/ Presbyterials, and Ray's wife Joyce was there from Toronto.

PRESBYTERIAL

The 82nd Annual Meeting of **Westminster** Presbyterial was held February 27th at Gordon Church, Burnaby, B.C. The theme was from I Corinthians 15:2, *Hold firm to the Word I proclaim to you.*

Rev. Sylvia Cleland conducted the worship service using the theme in her address "The Gospel Truth."

President Rev. E. McLagan opened the meeting with prayer. Ernestine Allan brought greetings from Synodical.

Grace Murdoch reviewed WMS items on the book table and Barbara Marshall reviewed a book.

The Marie Douglas WMS Group of the host church served lunch, followed by a hymn sing. The "In Memoriam" was led by Barbara Marshall.

In the afternoon, Rev. J. Mills spoke on the "Church in Ireland" giving some of its history and resulting religious, social and political problems. PWS&D representative, Sharon Scott, brought everyone up-to-date on Community Development, Emergency Aid, and Development Education in Canada.

The officers for 1996-97 were installed by Sharon Scott. Rev. E. McLagan closed with prayer and the benediction.

Stratford-Huron Presbyterial held their Annual Meeting in St. Andrew's Church, Stratford, Ontario on February 23. The theme was *Partners in Hope.*

President Jean Edmunds of Mitchell gave the call to worship and the devotions were given by Beatrice Ersman and Pauline Simmons.

Lois Kipfer welcomed everyone and Rev. Kate Ballagh-Steeper brought greetings from Huron-Perth Presbytery.

AEC, Margaret Greig, led a Bible study on the theme based on Romans 15:1-6, showing how mission has changed from a "sender-receiver" model to a partnership model.

The afternoon session began with a sing-along led by Verna Willows with Lois Kipfer at the piano. Joyce Thorne, Pat White and Pearl Hendry, from Goderich Afternoon Auxiliary gave the devotions. Ronald Kipfer sang a solo.

Verna Willows, Stratford, introduced guest speaker, Jean Aitcheson of Avonton, a nurse, who spoke on the work she did as part of a group who went to Guatemala.

Robina Alexander, Listowel, presented a painting by Jean Edmunds to Margaret Greig who is leaving to replace

Barbara Woodruff as Program Secretary of the WMS.

The officers were installed by Margaret Greig with Jean Edmunds as president.

Jeanette Laing, Shakespeare, gave courtesy remarks, and Shirley Aitcheson, the closing prayer.

Edmonton-Peace River Presbyterial held their Annual Meeting on February 10 at Westmount Church, Edmonton, Alberta. The theme was *Life is Commitment* (Proverbs 16:1-3).

Following the devotional led by Margaret Moar, Janette Mackie, President of ANCC - the Alberta and Northwest Coordinating Committee of the Alberta Synodical, reported on the first year of the new structure.

Following business led by the president Catherine Leadbetter, lunch was served by the Westmount WMS. Rev. Ray Glen of Westmount said the blessing.

The afternoon session opened with a sing-along led by Anne Paterson. Janette Mackie introduced Rev. Rosemary Doran, President of Council Executive who gave an insightful review of the work of WMS in Canada, and stimulating thoughts on our goals and commitments.

The installation of officers was conducted by Janette Mackie. The closing devotional was led by Rev. Roy Gellatly, Administrative Coordinator for Alberta.

West Toronto Presbyterial held its Annual Meeting in St. Andrew's Church, Islington, on February 17. Beverley McWhinnie, president, welcomed all. Joan Best led in devotions on the theme, *How can we sing the songs of the Lord in foreign lands?* (Psalm 137:4).

Norma Fitzgerald was accompanist for the Praise Service and sang a beautiful solo. Dorothy Clark, Literature Secretary, reviewed some books which were for sale. Jean Dancey, President of Toronto-Kingston Synodical, and Giollo Kelly, President of East Toronto Presbyterial brought greetings.

June Maxwade introduced guest speaker, Denise Van Wissen who worked as a nutritionist for Soynica in Nicaragua, and taught English as a second language. She illustrated her talk with slides.

An Honorary Membership was presented by Lynn Evans to Kala Roopnarine. Jean Dancey installed the officers for 1996. Elizabeth Heath is President for this year.

Over the lunch hour greetings were brought by Dr. Dalzell, Moderator of West Toronto Presbytery, and Dr. Allison, minister of the host church. Dorothy Hopper introduced Brenda Adamson, a volunteer board member of Armagh. She told of the work there, and showed a video on Armagh.

The Annual Meeting of the Presbyterial of **Central Alberta** was held February 5 at St. Andrew's Church, Red Deer, Alberta with President Mary Duncan presiding. Following the repeating of the WMS Purpose Rev. Roy Gellatly, newly named Administrative Coordinator for Alberta presented a most inspiring devotional based on the theme *A cup of cold water in my name* (Mark 9: 41).

Janette Mackie, Calgary, President of the Alberta Northwest Coordinating Committee told about the progress that has been made.

Rosemary Doran, President of the WMS Council Executive spoke of her work and also told some of the highlights of last year's General Assembly, and the Native Sacred Assembly she attended in December.

Rosemary and Janette had a display depicting the life of the Glad Tidings magazine since its beginning. We concluded a busy day by viewing the video "Stained Glass Windows".

Mission on our Doorstep was the theme of the **Saskatoon** Presbyterial meeting

held on February 10 in Parkview Church, Saskatoon. President Denike Kraay opened the meeting with prayer. Greetings were brought by the minister Rev. Michael Tai.

Bernice Shih introduced the guest speaker, Rev. Catherine Chalin who with her husband Rev. Ian Clark are working in Kenya with the P.C.E.A. Dr. Chalin gave the devotional and Jean Ramsay the memorial service. During lunch Margaret Wilson explained her duties as new Area Educational Consultant for Saskatchewan.

After lunch and a sing-along Dr. Chalin, showing films, gave a very interesting talk on her work in Kenya.

Margaret Wilson installed the new officers. Merle McGowan closed with prayer.

Glenview Church was host to the 81st Annual Meeting of **East Toronto** Presbyterial on February 24. The theme was *Ye are the salt of the earth...Ye are the light of the world...* (Matthew 5:13-16). Opening worship was led by Kathleen Flynn.

Denise van Wissen spoke of her work as a nutritionist for Soynica, an association of organizations in Nicaragua engaged in promoting the nutritional advantages of soya beans and of her work as a teacher of English at "La Prepa".

A time of prayer for the people and work in Nicaragua was led by members of Presbyterial Executive.

Installation of officers was conducted by Rev. Donald Pollock. Lunch was served by the women of Glenview.

Westminster Presbyterial's Christmas luncheon was held December 2, 1995, at the Eldorado Motor Hotel, Vancouver, B.C. A delicious catered turkey dinner was enjoyed by members and friends. Presbyterial President, Rev. E. McLagan, welcomed everyone and thanked Cathy Jeatt for making the attractive angel place favors. Name tags in the Christmas theme were used.

A musical program followed the dinner with Tucker Goodwin being the emcee. Mary and Fiona Hanson, choir members of Richmond Church sang three duets. Mr. Goodwin then led the group in carol singing accompanied by Ernestine Allan at the piano.

The 82nd Annual Meeting of **London** Presbyterial was held on January 18 at Duff's Church, Largie, Ontario with the theme *Proven - Facing the Future with Faith.*

Guest speaker was Rosemary Doran, President of WMS Council Executive who urged members to be unafraid to go forward in new and creative ways to continue to spread the good news.

Communion was served by Rev. Ralph Fluit and Session of the church. AEC Margaret Greig conducted a bible study "Proven". New Officers were installed by Margaret Ford, including president, Margaret McCullough. At the organ for the day was Helen Duncanson.

Glengarry Presbyterial met in St. John's Church, Cornwall, Ontario on January 16.

The meeting which was constituted by Lorna MacGregor, President, had as its theme *In all Things Be Faithful.* The purpose of the WMS was repeated and the devotional service was conducted by the Dunvegan women. Annie MacRae welcomed everyone to St. John's.

The women of St. John's served a delicious lunch after which a sing-along was led by Vera MacEwen and pianist, Iva Bush.

Guest speaker, Mary Lou Johnston was introduced by Shelagh MacDougall. Mary Lou and her husband Geoff spent two weeks with theological students in Hungary (Budapest), The Czech Republic (Prague), and Germany (Berlin). Her presentation was complemented with slides.

Dorothy Forrester, accompanied by Iva Bush, sang a beautiful solo. Rev. Fred Rennie closed with the benediction.

The Annual Meeting of **Peterborough** Presbyterial was hosted by St. Andrew's, Cobourg, Ontario on January 17. Presbyterial President Jean Montgomery of St. Paul's, Peterborough opened with prayer.

A sing-along was led by Jackie Kelly of Norwood and accompanied by Faye McMillan of Havelock.

The worship service was given by Marion Ewart Group, Cobourg. Ross Johnston of Cobourg sang a beautiful solo.

Kass Whitefield of Cobourg, guest speaker, told of her experiences of coming to Canada as a war bride.

In the afternoon Joan Smith of Port Hope introduced Wilma Welsh, who gave a very exciting portrayal of her work in International Ministries of the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

A memorial service was conducted by Marce L. Wood Group, Cobourg.

The 1996-97 President Ada Chapman of Lakehurst and her new Executive were installed by Wilma Welsh. Courtesies were given by Faye McMillan of Havelock.

Barrie Presbyterial met in St. Andrew's Church, Barrie, Ontario for the Fall Rally, October 14, 1995. It was a joyous day. The theme was *Encourage One Another* (I Thess. 5:11).

President Marie Schandlen opened with a verse and prayer. Reta Tanner, President of St. Andrew's WMS, welcomed all on behalf of St. Andrew's. Rev. Allen Aicken brought greetings from St. Andrew's, Barrie.

Helen Webb gave the Offertory Prayer and Ellen Heikkila inspired us with song. The WMS group from Essa Road, Barrie, led in worship.

Small groups gathered for Bible Study and discussion, based on the theme.

There was a "President's Panel", consisting of Marie Schandlen, Jill Pardy and June Campbell. Ideas were shared, such as membership, resources and raising money.

After lunch there was a sing-along and book review. Lois Cullis introduced Joy Randall, on furlough from Taiwan. Joy showed slides, and spoke on her work in the hospital in Taiwan and their exciting plans for the future.

Catharine Elliot thanked everyone.

Communion was served and Rev. Allen Aicken closed with the benediction.

The theme for the Annual Meeting of **Maitland** Presbyterial held in Wingham, Ontario on January 23rd was *Can Women Influence the World?*

President Mildred Dupont opened the meeting with prayer. Reports were presented by each of the different secretaries.

AEC Margaret Greig showed portions of the two videos related to this year's mission studies.

At the afternoon session, Nancy McIntyre of South Kinloss gave the devotions, developing the theme, saying each of us can make a difference. By doing what we can to the best of our ability, we will change the world, if we do it through Jesus Christ.

The new officers for 1996 were installed by Agnes Bregman.

Janet Ingles of Belmore closed the meeting with prayer.

SYNODICAL REQUESTS PHOTOS

The Hamilton-London Synodical WMS will be celebrating its 50th anniversary in 1997. We are anxious to find pictures of early presidents - Mrs. D. Munro, Hamilton; Mrs. W. E. Stauth, Windsor; Mrs. Arthur Hamilton, Atwood; Mrs. W. Wheaton, Port Stanley and Mrs. Donald McInnis, Ridgetown. If you can help please contact Mrs. A. Neal, 1012 Kensington Blvd., Sarnia, Ontario N7S 1N2.

With the theme *Get the Word Around*, the 45th Annual Meeting of **Niagara** Presbyterial was held in Knox Church, Welland, Ontario on January 31.

President Hazel McGraw presided and members were welcomed by Rev. Lorna Thompson of Knox Church and Betty Crogie, Welland.

Glen Mount, E. H. Johnson Trust Winner of trip to Japan, Korea and Taiwan, gave a very informative talk on the challenges of Christian women in these countries.

Bible study was led by AEC Margaret Greig and the devotions conducted by Bonnie Roland and Nancy Miller.

Greetings from Hamilton and London Synodical were presented by Vice-President, Helen McLeish, and from the Presbytery of Niagara by the Moderator, Rev. Hugh Jones.

Officers reports were presented in the form of "News Flashes". The Five-Year Plan update was given by Nancy Miller.

The installation of officers was conducted by Margaret Greig. The new Presbyterial President is Shirley Barnhart of Welland, who closed the meeting.

The Annual Meeting of **Waterloo-Wellington** Presbyterial was held in Westminster-St. Paul's Church, Guelph, Ontario February 5 with opening prayer and constitution by the president, Dorothy McCombie.

The meditation, based on Ephesians 3:14-20 was given by Margaret Beale of Westminster-St. Paul's and a warm welcome by Betty Larter. A short "In Memoriam" service was given by Eileen Young. Helen Sinclair brought greetings from Synodical and Council.

Guest speaker was Jean Little, author of several books. Jean, born blind, to medical missionaries to Taiwan, returned with her parents to live in Guelph when she was seven. One of her books, "His Banner Over Me" was the story of her mother and family on their way home from Taiwan by boat. Portions of this book along with portions of other books were read by Jean's sister. Jean had also been active as a camp leader at CGIT camps and she has been honored as a "Member of the Order of Canada".

Jean was introduced by Sandy Giles and thanked by Lenora Arbuckle. The President presided over the business and reports, and courtesies were given by Marjorie Bender. The Officers were installed by Betty Larter and the meeting was closed with prayer and benediction by Dorothy McCombie.

The Annual Meeting of **Brockville** Presbyterial was held January 25 at Brockville, Ontario. President Margaret Reynolds welcomed everyone. The theme was *Talented, Tired Beautiful Feet.* Worship was conducted by Judy Messenger and Joy Armour of Kemptville. They emphasized that we should always put our best foot forward, but be sure we follow in the Master's footsteps. Virginia Johnston sang three beautiful arrangements.

Vera MacEwen brought greetings from Synodical. Mary Moorhead introduced the Bible Study. Following lunch, groups reported on the Bible Study. A short sing-along followed led by Henny Donkersteeg with Carol Darling on piano. Annual Reports were read and approved. Donna Wilson led in a service of remembrance. Rev. Allan Duncan installed the officers for 1996.

The members of **Brandon** Presbytery and of the Presbyterial held their joint Annual Meeting in First Church, Brandon, Manitoba on February 14. Rev. Margaret Mullen, St. Andrew's Church, Brandon, led the service and conducted the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Guest speaker in the afternoon was Rev. Ray Hodgson, Regional Staff Person who replaces Rev. Blake Carter, the former AEC.

ANNIVERSARY

Knox WMS, **Belmont, Ontario** celebrated 100 years of activity in 1995. On

September 24, Margaret Greig, AEC was guest speaker at our regular church service. A WMS banner designed by Shirley and Lisa McElroy was dedicated. Former members of Mission Band (later known as COC) and Explorers were invited to attend. A time of fellowship was held after the service.

On September 27 an afternoon meeting was held. Rev. Gloria Langlois conducted the worship. Marian Weldon, Treasurer of the WMS was guest speaker. The PWA of St. James Church, North Yarmouth, provided lunch.

Past Presidents of Knox WMS Belmont, Lena Duncan and Beatrice Farquhar poured tea. Memorabilia was displayed in a tastefully decorated room. The flowers on the tables were placed by Verna Legg, in memory of her mother, Mary Meikle. The anniversary cake made and decorated by Shirley McElroy, was cut by Dorothy Knott and Margaret Crawford.

LOCAL

Audrey Webster, president of the **Athalie Read Group** WMS at **St. Giles** Church in **Calgary, Alberta**, presented Marjorie Crawford with an honorary membership certificate and pin in love and appreciation for Marjorie's contribution and presence in the group for the past 27 years.

Marjorie's husband, Dr. David Crawford served in St. Giles for 27 years, retiring December 31, 1995. Marjorie has been an active participant in WMS, choir and many other church activities.

Marjorie and David are wished a long, happy and healthy retirement.

Attending the meeting of the **Hargrave-Taylor** WMS, **Medicine Hat, Alberta** in February 1996 were special guests, pictured below left to right: Madeline Paterson, President of St. John's WMS, guest Dr. Roy Gellatly, Administrative Coordinator, Synod of Alberta and Rev.

Rosemary Doran, President, WMS Council Executive.

The congregation of **St. Paul's, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan**, lost a faithful member when **Margaret "Jean" Vance** passed away on January 22, 1996, after a lengthy and courageous battle with cancer.

Jean was a dedicated member of the Presbyterian Church, and a long time member of the WMS, holding various offices in local groups and serving as Presbyterial President. She also contributed her efforts to Camp Christopher.

Jean sang in the choir, played the piano and was a member of a local singing group. Her cheerful and optimistic attitude, her sense of humor and her bravery in adversity were an example and inspiration to all.

Jean is survived by her husband, a daughter, three sons, five grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Edith Mary McCallum passed away in **New Westminster, B.C.** on January 23, 1996. Edith was a Life Member (1956), and an Honorary Member (1988) of the WMS. Edith had attended Mt. Pleasant Church, Vancouver, then Fairview Church until 1991 when Edith and her husband moved to New Westminster and attended **St. Aidan's** Church. Edith taught Sunday School, was a CGIT Leader, and a member of the local WMS

group, holding various offices.

Edith McCallum was a sponsor of the Presbyterian CGIT Girl's Council and Corresponding Secretary of B.C.'s CGIT Board. In the 1970s she was on the Camp Douglas Committee holding various offices including Registrar and cook at the camp.

Edith held various offices including Synodical Girl's Organization Secretary, Westminster Presbyterial Glad Tidings Secretary, Life Membership Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, and Daytime Secretary.

A Service of Remembrance was held in St. Aidan's Church, New Westminster, February 3, 1996 with the Revs. Larry Jackson and Jack Mills officiating. Edith is survived by her daughter, Anne and family.

Olive Ambler was born in Alberta and passed away in **Burnaby, B.C.** on February 6, 1996, at the age of 87. She was employed by B.C. Telephone Co. in the secretarial field where she gave relevant training to others.

Gordon Presbyterian Church, Burnaby was her home church where she served as CGIT leader, taught Sunday School, was a choir member for over 60 years, an elder, and a member of the Board of Managers. Olive was former secretary of the Marie Douglas WMS Group from whom she received a Life Membership in 1981.

Olive's other interests included the Mother's March, the World Day of Prayer and the SPCA.

Westminster Presbyterial also benefited from Olive's business training. Olive served as Treasurer 1974-1976, and as Recording Secretary 1981-1983.

Olive believed in helping others and loved God with all her heart. She is survived by many nieces and nephews.

A memorial service was held February 12 at Gordon Church with Rev. Charles Scott officiating.

Verna Wilson, a long-time member of the Evening Auxiliary of **St. Andrew's, Kingston, Ontario** passed away on December 30, 1995. Verna had been a Sunday School teacher, twice President of the Evening Auxiliary and a group leader of the Women's Home Association.

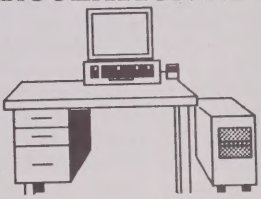
Her career as a librarian extended some 43 years, the last 15 of which she was Chief Librarian of the City.

She was honored as a distinguished citizen in 1977 when she was awarded the Queen Elizabeth Silver Jubilee Medal.

In addition, she served as president of the Elizabeth Cottage, a privately endowed residence for elderly ladies.

Verna will be remembered as a wise, kind and thoughtful friend. We will miss her.

CIRCULATION NEWS



This time of year we begin to update the mailing list for *Glad Tidings* Secretaries/contact people. Has your group elected a new *Glad Tidings* Secretary during the year? If so, please let us know by mid-July so that we can send our summer mailing (which will be sent in August) to the proper source. It is helpful to know the name of the secretary or contact person in case we need to contact the group during the year.

How are you promoting the magazine in your congregation? This is a good time of year to begin your promotion of the magazine for the fall. We can supply you with up to 50 free copies of the magazine for promotion within your congregation. Please contact the *Glad Tidings* office indicating the number of copies and name of congregation. Promotion is an ongoing task and sometimes takes a lot of effort on the part of the secretary and others in the group.

Katherine Allen,
Circulation Manager

IN REMEMBRANCE

Mrs. Olive Smith,
Knox, Agincourt, Ont.

Mrs. Derk (Dora) Wisselink,
Avonton, Ont.

Miss Beatrice Armstrong,
Mrs. Helen Leard,
Grace, Calgary, Alta.

Mrs. Elizabeth Cruickshank,
Mrs. Agnes Douglas,
Mrs. Nora Douglas,
Mrs. Vera Hagan,
Mrs. Gertrude Morrison,
Caledonia, Ont.

Miss Olive Ambler,
Gordon, Burnaby, B.C.

Mrs. Margaret Brown,
Mrs. Florence Layfield,
St. John's, Cornwall, Ont.

Margeurite Chopin,
Mrs. Flora Cleghorn,
Mrs. Mary Hall,
Knox, Guelph, Ont.

Mrs. Cora Barr,
Kinlough, Ont.

Mrs. Ken (Aleta) Campbell,
Knox, Komoka, Ont.

Mrs. Patricia Ross,
St. Andrew's, Lethbridge, Alta.

Mrs. Bess Robinson,
Knox, Milton, Ont.

Mrs. Nancy Raycraft,
Knox, Moncton, Ont.

Mrs. Ruth M. Kline,
First, North Pelham, Ont.

Miss Eleanor Long,
Gateway, North York, Ont.

Eleanor Miller,
St. Stephen's, Ottawa, Ont.

Mrs. Merna Halls Wilson,
Palmerston, Ont.
(formerly Knox, Elora, Ont.)

Mrs. Agnes (Nancy) Wilkin,
Paris, Ont.

Myrna Drope,
Kate McLean,
St. Andrew's, Petrolia, Ont.

Mrs. Reeta (Grace) Jones,
St. Andrew's, Picton, Ont.
(mother of Rev. Robert Jones)

Mrs. Christine McCarthy,
First, Port Colborne, Ont.

Mrs. Jean Vance,
St. Paul's, Prince Albert, Sask.

Miss Margaret Scott,
Knox, Crieff, Puslinch, Ont.

Mrs. J. (Lura) Robb,
Westminster, Smiths Falls, Ont.

Mary Evelyn Lavis,
South Kinloss, Ont.

Mary Bartlett,
Peg Conlan,
Sadie Hart,
Rose Meldrum,
Katherine Turnbull,
Knox, Stratford, Ont.

Mrs. Margaret Henderson,
Thornhill, Ont.

Edith W. Taylor,
Calvin, Toronto, Ont.

Mrs. A. Bishop,
St. Paul's, Vaughan, Ont.

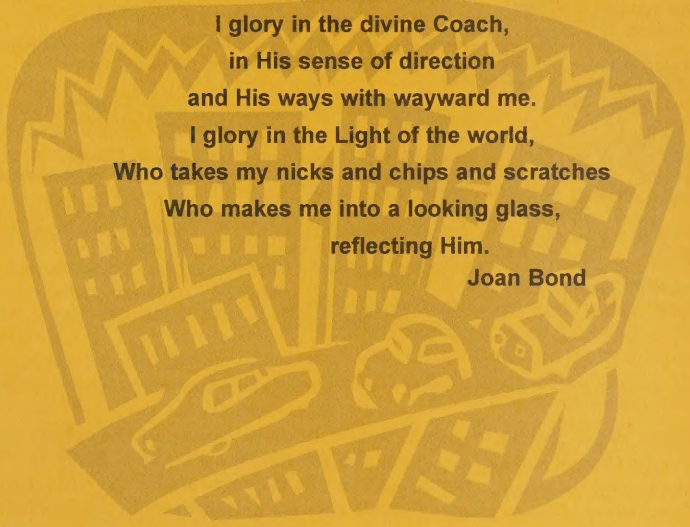
Mrs. Flossie Petersen,
St. Paul's, Winchester, Ont.

Reminder: When sending in a name for the *In Remembrance* column, please give the name of the Church and how you would like the name listed i.e. Mrs., Miss, etc. We usually like to have the person's first name. It is also helpful to send in the name directly to the *Glad Tidings* office as soon as possible after the person's passing. This prevents the notice from being too outdated. Notices for "In Remembrance" are the responsibility of the Local Group Secretary.

Glass

I glory not in cloud-skimming skyscrapers,
nor in glass glare of a rising sun.
I glory not in concrete and steel,
nor in parks manicured with magnificence.
I glory not in cathedrals of stone and wood,
with stained windows and smooth pews.
I glory in the perfect Parable-Maker,
Who loves people of broken glass and spirit
Who knows my story and still loves me.
I glory in the divine Coach,
in His sense of direction
and His ways with wayward me.
I glory in the Light of the world,
Who takes my nicks and chips and scratches
Who makes me into a looking glass,
reflecting Him.

Joan Bond



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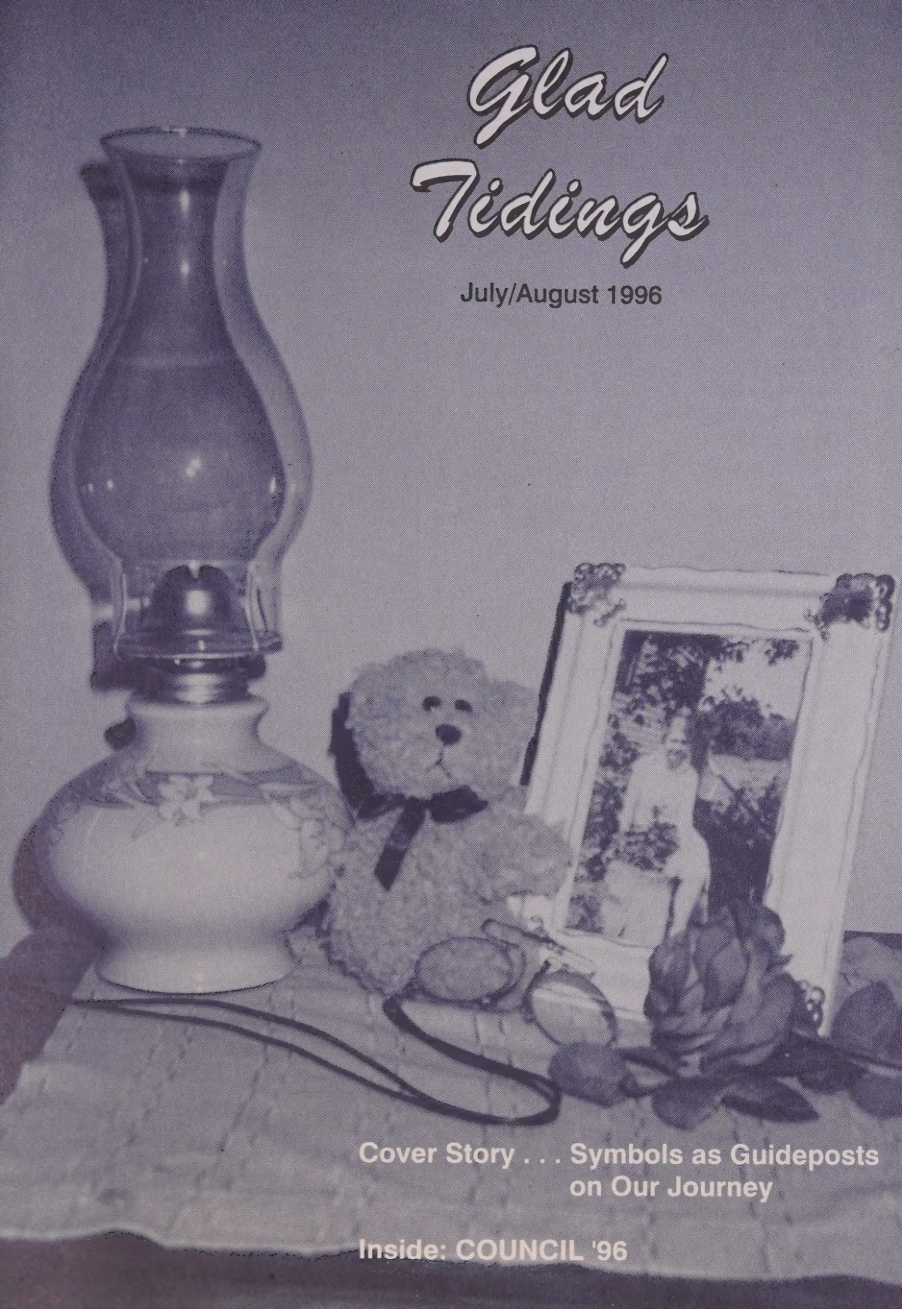
Glad Tidings

July/August 1996



Cover Story . . . Symbols as Guideposts on Our Journey

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Glad Tidings

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L. JUNE STEVENSON
EDITOR

KATHERINE ALLEN
CIRCULATION MANAGER

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GLAD TIDINGS reports on aspects of the Women's Missionary Society on all levels.

GLAD TIDINGS challenges concerned Christians to reflect on their faith through articles and reports related to mission and social justice issues, locally, nationally and internationally.

GLAD TIDINGS through its content, encourages readers to become informed, educated, inspired and motivated to action.

GLAD TIDINGS provides a forum for a broad spectrum of opinion and information, thus the views expressed in features, news reports, letters and book reviews are not necessarily endorsed by the WMS (WD) or by the Editor.

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This issue . . . Council '96

Cover Photo: L. June Stevenson

Fudge You Can Eat With a Spoon

by Gordon R. Lean

So who cares if a batch of fudge doesn't turn out? It's no big deal. It's life that's important...life that's lived for the glory of God!

The things my wife can do are legion. She is an incredibly marvellous woman. (And she'd kill me if she knew I was doing this article. But as she's gone for a few days to visit our daughter, what better time than now to knock it off?)

Yes, the things she's tackled quite successfully are too numerous to count. But there's one thing she has never been able to do with any degree of accomplishment - make fudge. You know, the kind that turns out beautifully hardened, like a slab of brownish marble. Well. I don't remember one single batch of fudge that we didn't have to eat with a spoon.

And though we laughed at all the slurping we did, the question persisted: why didn't it turn out? Though for the life of me I couldn't figure out what baseball had to do with it, my wife insisted she'd followed all the instructions, bringing the sugar to the hardball stage...or was it softball?

Then one day she made a decision. She'd had enough of this runny nonsense. She was buying a candy thermometer, and that was that.

The next time the fudge bug hit her she was ready, with heated element, saucepan, butter, brown sugar, crunched nuts, a dash of maple flavouring...and the thermometer. I had to get out of the house.

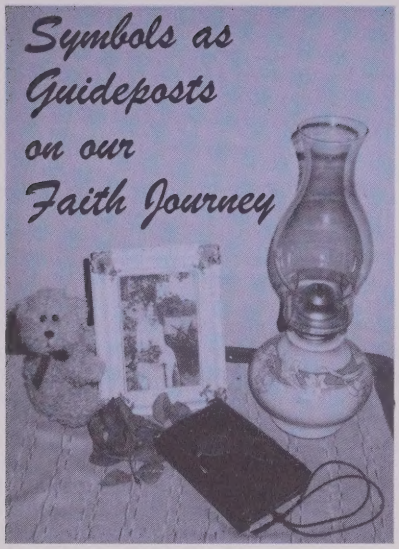
All that afternoon I worked at the office, my taste buds salivating for what I hoped would be the scrumptious taste of perfectly turned out marble fudge, fit for the king of Siam. Driving home I anticipated the break-off-and-crunch-in-your-teeth ecstasy that would surely accompany this New Batch. Arriving home, forgetting the usual "Hi, Honey, how's your day been?" I asked instead, "How'd it turn out?" Her reply: "Grab yourself a spoon, and we'll slurp together!"

That fudge experience reminds me so much of life. So often the things we've planned and hoped for never materialize. We dream dreams, only to have them dashed to the ground. We buy a mortgage for a new home, and the family revenue, for some reason, is cut off. We aim to rid ourselves of some habit, and we discover that it is stronger than we ever imagined. We plan to do better next time, and our high hopes take wings and fly away. We've followed all the rules but we are no better, and we feel no better.

It's like something's missing, and we don't know what that something is. And though we might have a sense of satisfaction for what we have accomplished, like the rich young ruler, the certainty of God's approval and blessing eludes us. We think we've done our best, but we're afraid our best falls short, and we're probably right.

We might be successful at making fudge; we might not. But fudge making is nothing compared to living as we should. For that, we need supernatural help. And we have such help in Jesus Christ, who has told us we can do nothing *without* Him (John 15:5). He has also told us that through His strength we can do *all things* (Phil. 4:13). Then, adding to these, He has revealed that for all our inconsistencies, our failed attempts, even to reach our own goals, even our shameful rebellions, there is forgiveness for the asking (1 John 1:9, Ephesians 1:7). Do we need more? These are the things that make possible a life and a service pleasing to God. Go for that life. And should your attempts seem to fail, go for it again...and again. And keep going for it. The Prize is worth it (Phil. 3:12-14).

So who cares if a batch of fudge doesn't turn out? It's no big deal. It's life that's important...life that's lived for the glory of God! Besides, spoons are a dime a dozen. Grab one and slurp.



Heirlooms symbolizing my roots are found in photo of my mother as a young woman, old reading glasses my cousin gave me, replica of an antique oil lamp, a Bible my brother brought from Egypt and a teddy bear. - L. June Stevenson

by Maria Stam

We all like to collect objects which remind us of our past, certain events in our lives, and places we have visited. They often reveal more about our personalities than words can express. Sometimes the symbolic meaning of an item is of greater value than the thing in itself. Heirlooms symbolize our past and roots; souvenirs our travels to foreign places; and gifts stand for love, caring and friendship.

When my friend Doris told me that she had found a bookbinder who was able to repair her grandmother's prayerbook, I noticed by the enthusiasm in her voice how important the repair of the heirloom was for her.

"I inherited the book after the death of my grandmother," she explained. "I used it often until it fell apart. Every time I became disillusioned and felt tempted to give up my faith, the old prayerbook reminded me of my grandmother's fidelity and helped me to overcome my doubts and discouragements."

As the book symbolizes the grandmother's beliefs, it makes Doris' own faith journey more meaningful. She hopes one day to hand it down to her granddaughter.

Reminders of our ancestors' faith can function as guideposts on our spiritual journey, helping us to stay on the right track when disappointments threaten to confuse our sense of direction. Faith journeys are not always smooth walks, but often lead over bumpy roads. Sometimes we stumble and fall. In those moments of uncertainty we look for reassuring signs like the two disciples on their way to Emmaus in the Gospel of Luke 24:13-15.

The disciples, fearful and disappointed about their Master's death, did not recognize Jesus as he walked with them. Only when he blessed the bread were their eyes opened. The sign of recognition restored their faith and they returned to the city of Jerusalem.

A similar situation is described in Luke 24:16-43 when Jesus appeared to the apostles after the resurrection. Not before he showed them his hands and feet were they able to believe that he was the risen Lord.

Jesus often used symbolic language when he talked about the Kingdom of Heaven. In Luke 13:49 he speaks of the Kingdom as a landowner; in Matthew 13:31-35 he compares it with a mustard seed and yeast, or in Matthew 13:44 with a treasure. By choosing everyday objects Jesus made the Kingdom of Heaven more real and understandable for the disciples.

Prayers, sacred poems and songs can become symbols on our spiritual journey. In the "Prayer for Peacemakers" Francis of Assisi expresses his wish to become the Lord's instrument of his peace. An instrument symbolizes usefulness. For Francis it was not enough to be a peacemaker; he wanted to be the tool in the hands of his Master, in order to be totally submitted to the will of God.

The beauty of this prayer lies in the deeper meaning of peace, which

May we recognize the importance of handing down the signs and symbols of our faith to children and grandchildren, so that they can become guideposts on their spiritual journey.

incorporates all the virtues of a peaceful attitude - understanding, forgiving, loving, and consoling. The Saint himself, often portrayed surrounded by animals, symbolizes reverence and kindness for the natural world. He reminds us to respect and appreciate all creation.

Signs on our faith journey can appear unexpectedly through words and actions of other persons which cause us to reflect on our position and the direction in which we are taken. When some years ago I had the opportunity to listen to Jean Vanier, the tireless advocate on behalf of the disabled, I was deeply touched, and my attitude toward these people changed forever. His words were for me the signs which inspired me to change directions on my journey. For a number of years afterwards I worked as a volunteer for disabled children.

Our faith would not be open to growth and transformation if the foundations of our beliefs had not been laid down in our childhood years. Parents and grandparents guided our first steps on our faith journey. The images of these early religious experiences linger in our memories as we mature, while visible objects as expressions of beliefs are the reminders of the convictions and loyalty of our predecessors.

The present situation in our world gives us reason to wonder what will be the signs and symbols of coming generations. Will their spiritual journey be directed by push-buttons and keys of electronic devices? A rapidly advancing technology leaves little room for human interaction and relationships which are so essential for the transmission of our Christian beliefs and values to the young. May we recognize the importance of handing down the signs and symbols of our faith to children and grandchildren, so that they can become guideposts on their spiritual journey.

Maria Stam is a freelance writer from London, Ontario. She has had published a historical novel, a book of poetry and a variety of articles and poems in both secular and religious publications.

Maria says that since English is her third language it has taken her longer to be published in this language. She has written for both German and Dutch publications.

Maria has taken creative writing courses at the University of Western Ontario and studied scripture and social analysis at the Divine Word Centre in London. She has done many years of volunteer work within the church and other organizations.

Trust Him when dark
doubts assail thee.
Trust Him when thy
strength is small.
Trust Him when to
simply trust Him
seems the Hardest task
of all.
copied from the
Star of the 4th of July 1939

Item from the Montreal Star, found in Grandma's Bible, in her handwriting. - LJS

MISSION STUDY 1996-97: CHINA AND HONG KONG

God is Forever Faithful

The Centennial Celebration of the Chinese Presbyterian Church, Vancouver, B.C.

by Gordon Yuen, Clerk of Session

I have been privileged to observe the life of the Chinese Presbyterian Church since its inception as a mission charge in 1895. It is somewhat startling for me to discover that I have attended CPC for over 50 years, served half that time as an elder, and about half that time again as a representative elder in the Presbytery of Westminster.

The Chinese Presbyterian Church began as a mission charge to reach a community of workers who came to Canada with no awareness of the gospel of Jesus Christ. The early ministers were appointed and prepaid for by the Missions Committee of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. Until the late 20s, CPC session was governed by assessor elders appointed by the Presbytery. The congregational needs and concerns were reviewed periodically by a Superintendent of Missions, who oversaw the work and progress of Chinese Presbyterian Churches in major cities across Canada and made reports and requests to Presbytery and the General Assembly.

In 1971, the minister's stipend at CPC was $6800; CPC raised $3800, the General Board of Missions provided $3000. CPC remained an aid-receiving mission until a final deficit grant of $1823.31 from the BWM was recorded in 1975. In 1995, the CPC remittance to Presbyterians Sharing will be $32,000.

The Women's Missionary Society worked in partnership with the Church by sponsoring the Kindergarten School commencing in 1931 with the appointment of Ruth Yeandle, RN. Through the enrollment of preschool children, the church workers had access to the homes. Our church workers were then able to bring the gospel to many families within the Chinese community. The WMS contributed to this ministry by paying the salaries of the early Kindergarten workers. This support continued in progressively smaller portions through to 1982, when under the supervision of Grace Tong and with the development of the Nursery School systems in British Columbia, the school became self supporting. Our maximum licensed enrollment is 100 with a staff of seven.

Another vehicle in reaching children and families for Jesus Christ was the

Chinese Language School. Our early ministers and church workers taught Cantonese during the week from the early 30s. Today, the CPC Language School has enrollments of up to 430 students and a staff of nine supervised by our member Belinda Wong.

In its early years, the church met in homes, a society hall and in rented spaces, for about 25 years. In the early 1920s a Building Committee was struck and plans were drawn up to provide a church with a sanctuary, hall, lavatories and a small balcony for meetings. There was a rock in the basement so the plan included only a small kitchen and furnace area in this level.

On the second floor, six sleeping areas were incorporated to provide rooms for the transient visitor. The original building located on Keefer Street was financed in part by a sizeable loan from Pon Paul Sholoung, an immigration officer with the Government of Canada. This loan was eventually forgiven. The present building was designed and completed in 1980. The building was fully paid for by the congregation within five years.

We are blessed with Linda Con, and other active members, many who are alumni of the Nursery/Kindergarten School, some who are now teaching in the public schools and also teaching in our Church School. Presently we have 20 teachers and assistants for 120 attendees from nursery to adults.

The schools play an important role in the ministry at CPC. The schools also have taken up a large portion of our energies in administration. For this reason our Session has instigated the CPC Board of Education to provide oversight and expertise over our entire Christian education program. This Board, presently chaired by Richard Wong, is represented by the supervisors of the three departments, appointed members of Session and Board of Managers. We pray that our Session will be freed to devote more attention to supervision and oversight in pastoral care.

The 100th anniversary is a time to reflect on how God has led us through

- Susan Yeung (right) cutting cake at her retirement celebration retirement, June 30, 1966, with Ruth Yeandle at her right.

many joys and not a few obstacles. We have faced Satan repeatedly in many situations. Yet God is forever faithful to all who remain true and obedient. Through each experience we recognize more strongly Jesus Christ as the one and only head of the Church. We are blessed and empowered through Him to serve and to spread the gospel to a growing and vibrant community which surrounds us and extends into the world today.

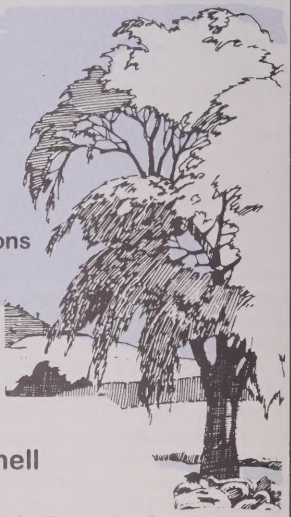
We seek your prayers of support and thanksgiving at this time of celebration. We seek your prayers for forgiving and contrite hearts. We seek unity among our leadership and members, and glory to the Lord our God. We thank God for the elders that God has called to serve. We thank God for the callings of all ministers who have served at CPC and now especially of Rev. Harry Bailey, who has served in ministry diligently at CPC since 1991, and of Rev. Morgan Wong, who will commence ministry here as senior pastor in January 1996.

We praise God for provision over the years, for strength and guidance in times of need, for the grace and steadfast love in sustaining us all as members of God's body, sovereignty as creator and redeemer. We look forward to our second century of witnessing for the son of God, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Grafting

There was a time
before You found me
I was a bent and withered stem
haggling after the petty things of earth
I wondered why the night turned out the same dark questions
paid heed to slick moons with their half-answers
and lutescent promises
I contented myself playing mediator to seasonal disharmony
calming the stutters of brooding wind
and negotiating deals
with impossible suns

Now that you have found me
growing up out of this disorderly path
I am a tree in full bloom
now
I keep myself straight and narrow
leave others to heal the breach of angry seasons
now
I listen only for Your vernal words
Your arms have become my branches
and the feet of You
my roots
My life grows verdant with green hope
and I am sufficient in the fullness of You



Barbara Mitchell

AWARD WINNING POET

Readers of Glad Tidings have enjoyed Barbara Mitchell's poetry for many years now. Recently Barbara's poetry was awarded the recognition it deserves. At the Canadian Church Press awards ceremony Barbara's poem "Alzheimer", printed in the May/June 1995 *Glad Tidings* won first prize in the poetry category. Judge Sheila Martindale praised the poet for the imagery and the graceful language. "The poem is sensitive and the poet neither patronizes nor pities her subject," Marchand said. Congratulations to Barbara and to Glad Tidings.

Barbara is a widely published author and poet from Edmonton, Alberta. Her book, *I Know You, Lord,* which includes her poetry and her photographs, is available in the WMS Book Room. Barbara is now in the process of completing a fourth Poetry/Photo multi-media feature which features her poems accompanied by music and slides.

81ST ANNUAL WMS COUNCIL MEETING

Crieff Hills Community, Puslinch, Ontario

THEME:

JOURNEYING

IN HOPE

Council began with a retirement celebration on the Sunday evening for **Tamiko Corbett, Barbara Woodruff and Marian LeFeuvre.**

President, Rosemary Doran introduced the honorees and their specially invited family and friends. Presentations were interspersed with singing led by Charlotte Brown, Margaret Greig, Lynda Reid and Lorna Teare.

Speaking of Marian LeFeuvre, Dorothy Ruddell gave remarks in the form of a poem; Esther Powell, using her singing talent reflected on Tam Corbett's service; and and Joanne Instance recalled Barbara Woodruff's long service. Each was presented with a gift. Several other people took the opportunity to reminisce and give thanks as well.

Druse Bryan and Mary Moorhead closed the evening with worship, celebrating the gifts of the retirees and those coming into WMS.

-Left to right: Barbara, Marian and Tam

WORSHIP & BIBLE STUDY

Karen McAndless-Davis, minister of St. Andrew's Newton, Surrey, BC, led the Council in Worship and Bible Study for the three mornings. The first theme was "Journeying Without Destination," based

on Genesis 21:8-21. Delegates and staff were divided into nine table groups.

Each delegate was asked to draw a picture of their own life journey, then to discuss it with another person in their table group.

Karen talked about Hagar carrying her precious son on their journey into the wilderness, not knowing where this might lead them. She found that she was not alone. And neither are we, as we struggle personally and as a Society to find where God is leading us.

The second morning "Finding Hope in Chaos" was based on Joshua 2:21. Two delegates from each table volunteered for a blind-fold exercise. This led to discussions about what it is like to be leading and to be led through darkness.

Karen based her worship and discussion on the story of Rahab, a woman from the "red rope district," noting that the Hebrew word for rope sounds like hope. Though Rahab commits treason, putting herself in danger, she is obeying God. As a result, the Israelites get into the promised land. Is God trying to call us to be in a different way?

On the closing day "A Story of Three Faithful Women" was based on Exodus 2:1-10. Worship and discussion centered on the difficulty of letting go (Moses' mother and sister) and taking up (Pharaoh's daughter). Trusting in God encourages us to take up something new. God does "wacky things to complete the plan." We need to trust God in the chaos because God has been faithful in the past.

- Karen McAndless-Davis, Worship and Bible Study leader.

SPECIAL GUESTS

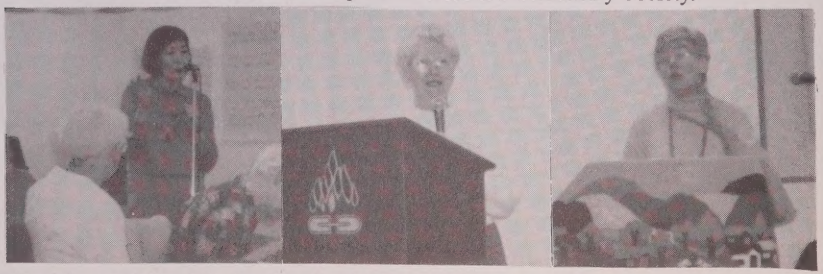
Evelyn Murdoch, former area staff, and **Lois Klempa**, of Montreal, were welcomed as visitors.

Heather Johnston spoke about the Ecumenical Development Cooperative Society, a Christian World Bank, designed for churches, groups and individuals to invest money to help poor people around the world (including Canadians).

Currently over 300 projects around the world give life for many people. EDCS provides a loan made to poor people and has a 92% repayment (banks get 38%). The Presbyterian Church in Canada became a part of this effort about seven years ago.

One investment share costs $250.

Jung Hee Ahn spoke on behalf of the Korean WMS, which started in 1994 with a group of minister's wives. Of the 24 Korean churches in the Presbyterian Church in Canada, 14 belong to a Korean Women's Missionary Society.



- Special guests, left to right: Jung Hee Ahn, Marlene Sinnis and Heather Johnston.

In 1996, they published their first KWMS newsletter in Korean, using the $250 donation (1995) from the WMS Christian Literature fund to help with the $500 cost.

Dorothy Henderson (Life and Mission Agency, Education for Discipleship) reported that this committee has good resources available but needs better communication to get them out to the people. She said the near-future way is on the Internet.

She reported that the Learning/Sharing project for Children and Youth is well used.

A midweek children's program *Kids of the Kingdom* by the Rev. Ken Stright was scheduled to be launched at the 122nd General Assembly.

A sequel to *The Face of Jesus* is now available, *The Hand of God.* It will be an insert in the July/August Presbyterian Record and available separately for $3.00 from the Resource Distribution Center.

Dorothy challenged us with the reality that we have very few children enrolled in our church schools across Canada. 1000 churches have 850 church schools. 740 churches have fewer than 50 children enrolled. What does this mean for the WMS and for the Life and Mission Agency?

Lynda Reid referred to Children & Youth Secretary positions at Presbyterial and Synodical levels. Due to the current frustration at gathering statistics, the Covenant Community with Children and Youth will inquire about getting a place for this information on the congregational statistical form. This would leave the secretaries free to support leaders, and to involve children & youth in programs, but would create a need to revise job descriptions for children and youth secretaries.

Marlene Sinnis, president of the Atlantic Mission Society said their motto is "The World for Christ". They have 1571 members, 140 groups, eight Presbyterials, and one Annual meeting a year. Their work runs parallel to the WMS. In June 1995, Ina Adamson retired as Executive Secretary, and on April 1, 1996, Shirley Murdock filled this position. She will be working six months a year (three in spring, three in fall).

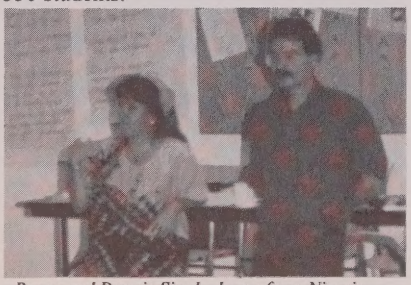
Some of their work included giving seven bursaries to students at theological colleges (in Canada), giving over half of their income to Life & Mission, and a special project in Guyana. Marlene reminded us that they have had five name changes in their history. They publish the *Presbyterian Message* ten times a year.

Karen Bach from the Women In Ministry Committee (WIM) informed us of the proposal they have made for the creation of a position of Coordinator of Women's Studies and Lay Education. They would welcome the support of the WMS in this venture. There is a great need to continue the work of Ewart College, especially a philosophy that is quite different from traditional theological education.

Ian Morrison, Canada Ministries, and Acting General Secretary for Life and Mission Agency, was introduced.

Peggy Reid and Dennis Single who had just returned from a two-year term in Nigeria talked about their ministries there, supported by Presbyterians Sharing. Dennis is in charge of a 100-hectare farm owned by the Presbyterian Church in Nigeria (originally a Leper farm started by the Church of Scotland).

Peggy, a nurse from New Brunswick, and now a United Church minister, has many teaching and administrative tasks at the Mary Slessor Institute (secondary school). The school has grown from 43 to 350 students.



- Peggy and Dennis Single, home from Nigeria.

BOOK ROOM

Dorothy Ruddell highlighted the 1996 joint marketing venture between the Life & Mission Agency and the WMS to advertise materials from both the Book Room and the Resource Distribution Center. This was placed in the May 1996 Presbyterian Record.

Dorothy reviewed the current Horizons Bible Study, Encounters with Jesus: Gospel of Matthew, which is available in Korean, Spanish and Braille as well as English.

FOCUS ON THE FUTURE

Margaret McGillivray reported on the progress of this committee which included new staff appointments; a workshop on the use of inclusive language; a trial Mission Awareness Sunday; twinning (like a pen-pal exchange) and using E-mail.

MOTIONS: Following are some of the motions carried.

• that WMS (WD) provide Tam Corbett with $500 a month to assist in personal expenses, for ten months during her moderatorial year (Sept 1996-June 1997).

• that there be a contribution from Council attendees to assist with the cost of the gown for Tam Corbett, Moderator Elect of the 122nd General Assembly.

• that $150,000 be the grant of the WMS to Presbyterians Sharing for the work of the Life and Mission Agency for the year 1997.

• that financial objectives be set by Synodicals in consultation with the Presbyterials.

• that the Finance Committee be directed to investigate the possibility of redirecting our investment portfolio, to a maximum of 5% over the next 5 years, to the EDCS (Ecumenical Development Cooperative Society).

• that in 1997 the Glad Tidings subscription price be increased to $10.00 (including GST).

• that the WMS send a letter to the Committee on Theological Education supporting the submission of the Women In Ministry Committee to have funds designated from the Ewart Endowment.

• that the Alberta Northwest Co-ordinating Committee resolution be approved as amended: that the words "Christian women" be changed to "Christians" and the letters W.D. be deleted from the WMS purpose. This should be passed on to the Synodicals and Presbyterials and a report brought back to the February 1997 Executive meeting.

• that the Women's Missionary Society (WD) request the General Assembly to encourage each presbytery to invite two appointed representatives of presbyterial to attend presbytery meetings with voice but no vote.

• that Council designate $50,000 to the Life & Mission Agency to be used to assist the Covenant Community with Children and Youth (CCCY) in implementing a viable Children's and Youth program (from a 1995 legacy and available now).

• that in the future, if undesignated legacy money is not needed to meet the general operations of the WMS, the surplus may be used to fund such projects as may be determined by the Council Executive in consultation with the Synodicals.

• that we endorse the proposal of the CCCY to pursue the matter of reporting the work with children & youth groups through the congregational statistical reports.

- Upper left - Lee McKenna-Ducharme, left, Cynthia McLean, centre, and Susan Raeburn-Cherradi; upper right - Glenn Davis with daughter Paska and grandson Luke; above - Mary Fontaine.

FOCUS ON CHINA

The evening opened with hand-out quizzes on Hong Kong and China and learning to sing Psalm 23 from the study guide. Barbara Woodruff moderated the panel consisting of Cynthia McLean from the Canada/China Program, Susan Raeburn-Cherradi from the Hong Kong Amity Foundation, and Lee McKenna-Ducharme of Justice Ministries, Life & Mission Agency, the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

June Stevenson closed the evening program with a prayer and Margaret Greig led in singing Psalm 23.

INTRODUCTION TO STUDY THEME: MULTICULTURALISM

Barbara Woodruff opened this section by introducing the materials available for study on this theme.

June Stevenson continued with a prayer then interviewed an impromptu panel from among the staff and Council: Rosemary Doran, Jung Hee Ahn, Gloria Kennedy, Tamiko Corbett and Bernice Shih.

Margaret Greig closed with a prayer and led in the singing of "May the God of Hope" as a prayer in English and Spanish.

"BEING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ABORIGINAL PEOPLES"

The evening opened with the song "Part of the Family". Margaret Greig led in prayer and a listening exercise. Groups of eight were asked to name, then to pray for global and national concerns of their choice. Next, groups of four were asked to name and to pray for congregational, and WMS concerns. Then in pairs, each partner was to pray for the personal concerns of the other.

June Stevenson introduced Mary (Head) Fontaine who works on the Mistawasis Reserve, Saskatchewan. Mary talked about her experiences of growing up and working with Aboriginal people.

Ian Morrison, Canada Ministries, talked about the involvement of the Presbyterian Church in Canada in the Healing Fund established as a follow-up to the Presbyterian Confession to Aborignal Peoples, and about the work of the PCC in Native Ministry.

Barbara Woodruff closed the evening session with a benediction, Isaiah 40:31.

On the Tuesday evening, a presentation was made to Glen Davis, marking his service on Council, and to Joyce Davis, on her ordination.

Throughout the Council each Synodical presented an imaginative skit based on mission.

RETIRING MEMBERS

Esther Powell expressed Council's gratitude for the leadership of Kay Cowper, Marian Weldon, Catherine Bray and presented each with a gift.

ELECTIONS

Kay Cowper was asked to conduct the election of officers. She declared the offices vacant and asked Audrey Nettleton to be Secretary. Margaret MacDonald presented the report of the Nominating Committee. The term of the Korean WMS representative was extended to 1996-7. (See Officers and Executive Members on back page.)

Tam Corbett conducted the commissioning.

Karen McAndless-Davis led in communion during which $1219 was collected for the work of Flora House in Winnipeg.

FLORA HOUSE

Elizabeth Watkins, member of the Board and Treasurer of Flora House spoke of the work and need there. Warren Whittaker has been the director for 17 years. She thanked the Council for making Flora House their offering project and asked for continued prayers for those who minister there.

SNAPSHOTS

Council photos: L. June Stevenson, Margaret Greig.

- Incoming staff - left Margaret Greig, Program Secretary; right Charlotte Brown, Executive Secretary.

"Let Us Run With Perseverance..." - A Quiz

by Bonnie Nikkel

PERSEVERANCE: "the ability to go on with a knife in your heart."

Many people in Bible times needed perseverance to carry on despite suffering. We too must learn that valuable lesson. Those whose lives are written in the Bible can be our teachers. Sometimes they suffered for their faith or sometimes it was merely the result of circumstances beyond their control. Whatever the source of their suffering, many Bible characters refused to let hardship destroy their faith. In this quiz, we meet fifteen people who did not give up their faith in the midst of their troubles. Can you guess who they are?

1. What teenager was exiled into a pagan land, and throughout his life would not give up his faith, despite persecution and intrique? (Daniel 1-6)

2. Who was pursued in the wilderness of Judea by the king for crimes he didn't commit, yet kept believing he had a special role to play for his nation in God's time? (II Samuel 22-31)

3. What two people counted it all joy to suffer for their faith, and so sang while in the stocks in a prison in Philippi? (Acts 16:11-40)

4. Who lost all his worldly goods, but would not curse God and die? (Job 1:1-2:10)

5. Who lost her husband, yet preferred to live among his people and worship his God rather than remain in her own pagan land? (Ruth 1:1-18)

6. What Assyrian general suffered with leprosy, but turned to God after being healed by a Jewish prophet? (Give yourself a bonus point if you can name the prophet!) (II Kings 5:1-19)

7. Who continued to trust in God, although her husband's foolish decision resulted in her being taken to another man's harem, not once but twice? (Genesis 12:10-20; 20:1-18)

8. Who was miserable in her childless state, but prayed so fervently to God about her problem that she appeared drunk? (I Samuel 1:1-18)

9. Who was hiding in a cave in Horeb, depressed and frightened, yet cried out to God, and God answered him with a still small voice? (I Kings 19:1-18)

10. Who were grieving over the death of their brother, but continued to believe that the resurrection would restore him to them? (John 11:1-44)

11. Who languished in prison because he dared to rebuke the king's morals, and when he had doubts about God's purposes, sent friends to ask questions of Jesus? (Luke 7:18-23)

12. Who sank down into the mud of a dry cistern because he delivered God's unpopular message to the king. The message was "this city will certainly be handed over to the enemy"? (Jeremiah 38:1-6)

13. Who almost went to a watery grave because he was running away from God, but repented and travelled to the capital city of his enemies to warn them of their impending judgement? (Jonah 1 & 2)

14. Who continued to believe in God's love, despite having an unhappy marriage to an

unfaithful woman? (Hosea 3:1-5)

15. Who went into mourning when he heard the news that his home town was in disgrace because their wall was broken down, but prayed to God to allow him to be part of the solution? (Nehemiah 1:1-2:5)

Answers to Quiz on page 21.

Broken Wing

For a time it seemed as though
I'd lost you, Lord
Bound up in pain, alone and scared
Unsure of where you were
Feeling threatened, fearful
Wondering if my walk with you
Would ever be the same

Clinging to a hope that seemed
to slip away as swiftly as the
sun in autumn
Afraid to trust amidst recurring
memories of defeat

And then a glimmer came
So small at first, I almost missed
the softness of its glow
Gentle arms encircling me
Loving, caring
Asking nothing in return
Giving as you taught us, Lord

Hands reaching out
Some worn and wrinkled
Calloused hands touching mine
Hands of babies warm and chubby
Each one hanging on
Instilling peace
Renewing faith
Projecting hope

Promise of a life returning
Faltering footsteps, stumbling, falling
Rising up to once more grasp
the safety of your hand
Free at last to walk with you again

Maureen Hafso

HONORARY MEMBERSHIPS 1995

A
Arbour, Bonnie Elaine
Sarnia, Ontario

B
Belanger, Muriel
Vankleek Hill, Ontario

Bell, Olive
Barrie, Ontario

Bobbitt, Edith
Chateauguay, Quebec

Bradley, Irene
Inverhuron, Ontario

Bray, Catherine
Barrie, Ontario

C
Campbell, Hilda
Dunvegan, Ontario

Carter, Blake (Rev.)
Kenora, Ontario

Clark, Velma
Dundas, Ontario

Cooper, James. W. (Rev. Dr.)
Mississauga, Ontario

Crawford, Marjorie
Calgary, Alberta

D
Doan, Neil
Port Colborne, Ontario

E
Evans, Carolyn
Weston, Ontario

F
Flynt, Ruth
South Eldon, Ontario

G
Gottschalk, Reta
Tiverton, Ontario

Greenwood, Dorothy
Hamilton, Ontario

Guthrie, Margaret
Paris, Ontario

H
Hamilton, Eva
Kitchener, Ontario

Hurren, Noreen
Campbellville, Ontario

I
Ingram, Susan
Cambridge, Ontario

Innes, Florence
Embro, Ontario

K
Klempa, Lois
Westmount, Quebec

Mac
MacDonald, Marianne
Vankleek Hill, Ontario

MacGregor, Elizabeth
Hanover, Ontario

MacKay, Lorne
Embro, Ontario

MacKenzie, Muriel
Lucknow, Ontario

MacPherson, Alfreda
Bolsover, Ontario

MacRae, Catherine
Dundas, Ontario

Mc
McIntyre, Florence
Port Colborne, Ontario

M
Meadows, Georgina
Embro, Ontario

Montgomery, Jean
Peterborough, Ontario

Moorhead, Mary
Spencerville, Ontario

P
Parker, Lois
Campbellville, Ontario

Pederson, Mabel
Medicine Hat, Alberta

Purmal, Isabella
Hamilton, Ontario

R
Reid, Lynda
Oshawa, Ontario

Reid, Margaret
Tiverton, Ontario

S
Shields, Elizabeth
Ottawa, Ontario

Shields, R. MacArthur (Rev.)
Ottawa, Ontario

Soden, Kathleen
Southampton, Ontario

T
Thompson, Eleanor Jean
Tiverton, Ontario

Torrey, Helen
South Eldon, Ontario

W
Walker, Evelyn
Winchester, Ontario

Weaving, Margaret
Port Colborne, Ontario

Prayer for Seniors

Help me to keep cheerful, Lord,
In these my senior years;
Help me to still be useful.
Forgive my foolish fears.

Teach me how to accept, Lord,
Changes that have to be made;
Let the family understand me
If mind and memory fade.

If I get too old and feeble
Don't let me stay too long,
And thank you Lord, for all the years
I've been so able and strong.

Gladys Nolan

- Gladys Nolan has had many articles, stories and poems published in secular and religious publications. She is a charter member of the Canadian Author's Association, London Branch and has served as Secretary-Treasurer and President. She was Editor of C.A.A. Newsletter, The Writer's Cramp, 1981.

Gladys, who was born in 1908, says she is "still going strong; rich in friends, poor in pocket, hooked on writing." Currently she is struggling to learn how to use her new word processor.

CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION 1995

Douglas MacNeil
Benjamin Richards
Tanya Visser
Red Deer, Alberta

Miriam Yari
Bobbi Vince
Welland, Ontario

Mabel Irwin
West Huntingdon, Ontario

Bonnie Long
Stirling, Ontario

Linn Smith
Dan Gouge
Thornhill, Ontario

Christopher Jones
David Forbes
Jaine Klassen
Derrick Cunningham
Cobourg, Ontario

Kerry McMaster
Ottawa, Ontario

Parable of Unity

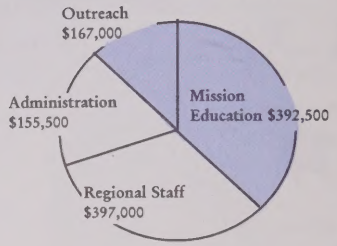
His was the dream
in Galilee...
striding the fields,
in search of men,
of men for peace
and unity.

We had a dream
in empathy...
tilling the fields,
in hope to save
the "promised land"
of unity.

'Twas but a dream
yet, still we see...
at dead of night
a Star above,
flashing a spark
for unity.

Jean Rowat

Forward in Faith



Estimates 1997 $1,112,000

Council approved the estimates for 1997 at $1,112,000. The estimates help our society to plan and provide ministry in this world.

Mission Education includes the funding of six staff salaries, their benefits and expenses. It includes the expenses of resource material for all ages.

Regional Staff: This money is returned to each Synod to help pay the salary and expenses of their staff. A joint committee of Synod/Synodical administers the distribution of the money. Regional staff serve as consultants for mission, education, youth ministry, pastoral care and congregational life.

Administration includes the expenses of the office as well as the salary of our financial officer. Council and executive staff expenses come under administration.

Outreach: $150,000 is to be given to the Life & Mission Agency for mission outreach. (1996 Focus is Tyndale-St. George's, New Church Development, Ethnic & Native Ministries, Nepal.) $15,000 is set aside for Christian Literature of which part will be used to offset the cost of Large Print Glad Tidings.

You, as members, are the ones promoting the mission of our church. Your generosity enables us to help others. It behooves each of us to be a good steward.

Strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Matt. 6:33 (NRSV)

Irene Nesbitt, Treasurer

"I"-Witness

My first husband had a serious illness for over two years resulting in periods of sickness followed by remissions. After a major operation which caused much suffering, he enjoyed a year of good health. Suddenly he had a relapse and died after a week. He was just 31 and had a bright future before him. I knew he was ready to meet his Lord but I couldn't help ask "why". I was devastated as I thought of my future.

During the first difficult year after his death, I had three unusual dreams. They were very different from ordinary dreams in a way impossible to explain. After each dream, I had a feeling of great peace and of a presence with me.

In each dream I knew he had died. In the first, he was ill in hospital and suffering much. I was very upset because I knew that having died, nothing physical in this world could touch him again.

The second dream was of happy preparation for a short visit he was allowed to make. A large group of friends and family had gathered to meet him and I realized there would be no time for us personally before he left us again.

On the anniversary of his passing, I dreamed he had come back to stay. My happiness knew no bounds. Then the thought came that he could give me first hand information about life beyond the grave. He seemed to read my thoughts and said he couldn't tell me. I asked him if he could just tell me if it was as beautiful as we believed. He said it was beautiful beyond words. When I said it must be awful to come back here then, he said it was. I have since had no more dreams of him.

I feel the Lord has shown me in these dreams the truth that after death we never suffer physical pain again; we suffer the pain of parting only once. When we are reunited it will be for eternity; and, if we could, we wouldn't ask our loved ones to leave glory to return to this world.

E. Jean Abrams,
Cobourg, ON

"Well, how did it go at the vet's? Did the cat put up much of a fuss?"

Source: *Dangerously Close to Home* by John McPherson. (Zondervan, 1995), available at your local bookstore or by calling 800-727-3480

ANSWERS TO - Perseverance Quiz on page 16:

1. Daniel 2. David
3. Paul and Silas
4. Job 5. Ruth
6. Naaman (The prophet was Elisha)
7. Sarah 8. Hannah
9. Elijah 10. Mary and Martha 11. John the Baptist
12. Jeremiah
13. Jonah 14. Hosea
15. Nehemiah

CELEBRATING YOUTH :and Children!

Where Are You Looking?

by Lois M. Richer

For teens and adults: learning responsibility has its frustrations as well as its joys.

Responsibility is a hard thing to learn. According to Webster, to be responsible means that one is accountable or answerable for something. Recently in our home, we decided that our almost-teenage son should become responsible for handling his own clothing allowance. We took that step after being hounded constantly with pleas for jeans and shirts that had tags and names emblazoned across them. Since they were priced far in excess of what we wished to spend, our hope was that he would learn to account for his decisions while realizing the limits responsibility imposed.

The general premise was met with joy by the kid. He could see dollar signs floating in the air and imagined all manner of new additions to his wardrobe. He spent hours considering just which pair of brand name jeans was the coolest. Long discussions were held on the merits of designer products. Daily, his father and I were regaled with tales of style and fashion. We were forced to be constantly on the alert for shortcomings in our own appearances as compared to those "with-it" parents in the kids' magazines.

We took a trip to the city last weekend and my son entered the mall with a thrill of anticipation. He had dreamed of this moment for days. Now, finally, it had arrived. In his pocket he had the means to make his dreams come true!

But, somehow, nothing quite measured up. The names he'd seen advertised just didn't fit him properly. Through store after store we toured, testing, trying, but always coming away empty. Always the size was wrong. Often the color was inappropriate or the cut was passé.

As the hours went by, I watched his face grow more discouraged. None of the trendy stores seemed able to provide what he wanted. Here he was, almost a teenager, and all he could find were clothes suited for a child. Gradually, the pride and joy he had experienced at the start of our trip ebbed away. I watched silently as he grew ever more sullen and disillusioned with his new responsibility.

Late in the afternoon, we stopped for a break. He sat there, morosely sipping his milkshake. Life had turned ugly. The jeans people were against him. What was the point of having money if it couldn't be used the way you wanted?

Finally, after this lengthy diatribe, I offered my opinion.

"Son, perhaps you're not looking in the right places. Perhaps the reason none of these styles fit is because you have moved beyond them."

Huh?

I suggested another store which carried jeans sized by waist measurement. A young girl advised him on the different cuts and styles available and suggested some sizes.

Reminder: A logo that reflects children and youth today is needed for the "Celebrating Youth and Children" page. Send your art, camera-ready, if possible to *Glad Tidings* by September 1, 1996.

Miraculously, several pairs fit, were even a little large. And little by little the glimmer of sunlight returned to his brown eyes.

He revelled in trying on those pants. And the salesgirl assisted him. Whatever he wanted to try, she brought. When it seemed he would choose something outlandish she offered her valuable teenage opinion and the unsuitable garment was abandoned.

When we finally left the store, sack in hand, his face beamed with satisfaction.

"I didn't know I'd grown into men's sizes," he grinned. "I was trying all the kid's departments. I guess I'm not a kid anymore."

I've thought about that these past few days. The problem wasn't that there weren't lots of jeans or that the store wasn't there all along. It wasn't that he didn't have enough money. The problem was that my son was spending all his time and energy looking for satisfaction in the wrong place.

I do that, too. I look for satisfaction in my job or in money or in my friends. And sometimes I find it. But more often, disappointment overwhelms me, clouding my happiness.

Why?

Because I'm looking in the wrong place. True satisfaction isn't found in earthly things. They rot or wear out or disappear. If I look to God, the satisfaction God gives never leaves. God, who never changes, is still the same today as yesterday and will be the same tomorrow. And I can find that elusive satisfaction.

All I have to do is look in the right place.

– Lois M. Richer is a writer currently living in Western Canada. She belongs to the Nipawin Alliance Church and has been an active member for some years.

CGIT RAISED MORE THAN $30,000 FOR CRISTALINA, BRAZIL

Left to right: Marion Waldron, President of the National CGIT Association, Marilyn Smith, Director of the The Sharing Way, Canadian Baptist Ministries and Julie Hazell, Member of Markham Baptist CGIT.

The CGIT 80th Anniversary project in 1995 was to raise $25,000 for street children in Cristalina, Brazil.

$30,000 will be sent for the construction of The Cristalina Transitory House in Cristalina, Brazil. This home will provide shelter for women and children who are facing difficult or abusive situations at home.

CGIT would like to thank all of those who supported this exciting project.

LEARNING/SHARING PROJECT 1996-97

***"Cultural Diversity"* - an exploration of some cultures which enrich Canada, and The Presbyterian Church in Canada.**

Cultural diversity is a fact of Canadian life, particularly in the major centres. Children, youth and adults are influenced by many cultures, and how they are presented in books, magazines, radio and television. Our reactions to these influences can be positive or negative, depending on our understanding of and exposure to people from the cultures which make up Canada.

The major objectives of the Learning/Sharing Project are that children and youth:

1. Value themselves as children of God;
2. Value others who are culturally different as children of God; and
3. Learn about and contribute to the church's mission in two culturally diverse communities - one in rural, northern India and the other in the inner city of Montreal.

Features:

The six sessions will focus on examples of cultural diversity in Canada and in northern India. Children and youth will be helped to understand where and how cultures originate. Specific examples of festivals, customs and their meanings will be covered, as comparisons in worship and other such activities are made. Stories, videos, pictures and other such resources are intended to enable leaders, children and youth to learn about, acknowledge, accept and celebrate Canada's cultural diversity.

The Learning/Sharing Project is available in the Children's Packet "All Quite Beautiful" which contains the basic book "All Quite Beautiful" and Teacher's Guide. **C0450 - $14.00**

The Learning/Sharing Project is also available separately. **C0453 - $5.00**.

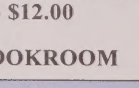
VIDEO: Also recommended is the 9-minute video "I Have a Friend". The theme song in the video is used in the Learning/Sharing materials. **C0451 - $12.00**

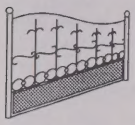
MATERIALS AVAILABLE FROM THE WMS BOOKROOM

Errata: Map 'n' Facts: China and Hong Kong:

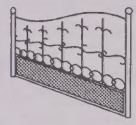
Map: Gansu (province) in place of Guansu

Panel: "Five Major Religions in China"
Islam: 25 million in place of 250 million.





"Outside the Church Gates"



by Lorna I. van Mossel

Their numbers are large and their predicaments are becoming more desperate everyday. They are single parents living in poverty, new immigrants who are having trouble making connections, people of all ages and nationalities who feel lonely and abandoned. Many of these people feel let down by society and they also feel "left outside the gates" of the church.

"Outside the Gates" was the subject of a workshop done some time ago by the Kitchener-Waterloo Council of Churches. The workshop took a serious look at the people who are left "outside the gates" but who hopefully will one day walk through the doors of our church. Why do they come and what happens when they are inside? These concerns were part of discussions at the WMS Council Executive meeting. I agreed to review the workshop with which I was involved and share some thoughts which you might consider for your congregation.

When people come to church, they are being drawn in by God. Do we foster their response by making them feel welcome to worship?

What happens when people walk through the doors of our church? How are they greeted?

If the church is truly a family of God's children, let us work at building community built on love and acceptance of those who have life styles different from 'the norm.'

- with a formal handshake or with a caring and warm welcome? What will be their experience throughout the entire worship time, and afterwards?
- Is there a friendly usher who introduces him or herself and takes them to a seat, making sure that they have a hymn book and an order of service? Does the usher introduce them to the person already seated?

When someone sits next to you, do you notice if they need help to find the hymn, the Scripture reading, or the responses? Maybe they have never been at a worship service before, maybe they are not fluent in your language. Maybe they are feeling awkward, embarrassed or out of place.

If your church has a greeting time at the beginning or the end of the worship, do you introduce yourself and make the newcomer feel welcome? At the end of the worship do you speak about the coffee hour and offer to accompany the new person?

What happens at the coffee hour - that time designed for fellowship? Is it a time of getting to know each other and of greeting strangers or is it a time for business discussions or meeting planning?

At the workshop we heard from a single mother who was also poor. Because of her poverty, her children had gone to live with foster families. Her daughter started attending a church and made a decision to become a church member. She invited her mother to come to the service when she would be received into the church. At the reception following, the girl noticed that no one spoke to her mother - you see her mother was not 'appropriately' dressed. The girl later spoke of the way her mother was treated, and of her decision to not attend church again.

We heard from a university professor who came from India a number of years earlier. People still ask him when he will be returning to his country of birth.

We heard from a man from Laos who spoke of the difficulty experienced by new Canadians who often feel 'left out' of the conversation.

In their conclusions, the workshop leaders suggested that congregations should look at every part of the worship service. A number of strategies were suggested for making people feel more included in church.

- Form a 'committee of the heart' to seek out people who are nurturing and warm and who can teach others in the congregation how to reach out to newcomers.

- If newcomers have children, make sure that the program for children is explained, and be willing to accompany parents to the nursery if desired.

- Single parent 'partnership' families could act as a support structure and also help introduce new families during the coffee hour and other events.

- Encourage people to share their stories and include social issues as part of the congregation's agenda.

- Messages from the pulpit could tell people that it is okay to be vulnerable. This would help people feel more comfortable about reaching out to each other and sharing their lives. Encourage the staff to attend a workshop on family violence and let this be known to the congregation. Survivors/victims of violence will then feel more comfortable to share their stories and hopefully will feel support.

- Have a committee in place to respond to the needs of people - a proactive committee with their eyes open and their ears to the ground with a sensitivity to the need for confidentiality. It is important that our response never be judgmental or paternalistic.

If the church is truly a family of God's children, let us work at building community - community built on love and acceptance - acceptance of those who have life styles different from 'the norm', acceptance of all sizes, shapes and colours, acceptance of the mentally and physically challenged (which could mean most of us). God loves all God's children - can we do less?

HOW TO USE THIS ARTICLE FOR GROUP STUDY AND ACTION:

Gatekeepers Pray for Guidance

• Look through Lorna van Mossel's article and list on newsprint the things that keep people "outside the gates" of the church (or your group). List any other things of which participants are aware.

• Ask each person to look carefully at the list and silently select one item. Invite the participants to join in a session of prayer in which each can pray about the item chosen.

• The group leader will pray aloud that each participant may find some insight, some inspiration during the prayer. Following the opening, allow several minutes for silent prayer when each person can bring the item chosen before Jesus. The leader will close the prayer with thanksgiving. (If desired, *The Lord's Prayer* can follow.)

Sample prayer

Opening: Loving God, we greet you with praise and adoration.
We rejoice that you have made us your people through Jesus Christ,
and that you welcome us at your throne of grace.
We come before you wanting to help the work of your church (and/or the work of this group).
We come looking to you for help.
Hear us as we hold up to you the barriers that keep people "outside the gates".
May your Spirit guide us in our struggle to remove the barriers.
Hear our prayer, O Lord.

(Time of silent Prayer)

Closing: Thank you Lord Jesus, for hearing what we offer and thank you for your response.
Keep us faithful to act upon each new insight you give, to the glory of your name. Amen.

• Over some light refreshment, ask the participants to share anything from the prayer experience.

If anyone had a sense of response while at prayer;

if anyone had an insight or inspiration;

if anyone had a question, a feeling, a sudden or surprising idea or action; record these things on newsprint.

When participants have finished discussing their prayer experience, ask if there is any insight recorded on the newsprint that should be pursued. Make plans to follow up on any chosen action. If nothing definite is identified at this time, suggest that the group could meet again for further prayer and exploration of the matter. Consider holding another *Gatekeepers Pray for Guidance* session.

Followup assistance

Look for resource people in your presbytery or your community to help your group follow up on this concern.
Resource: The book, *More Than Numbers: The Way Churches Grow* by Loren Mead of The Alban Institute, incorporates worksheets that could be useful for followup sessions (most useful for congregations). Available from the WMS Bookroom, 50 Wynford Drive, North York, ON M3C 1J7.

Note: If you are working with the whole congregation be sure to involve your minister.

- Adapted from an article by Diane Strickland, page 5-6 Equip '94, Volume X, Number 6, November/December, 1994.

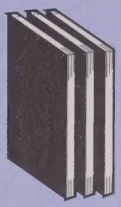
Prayer Meeting

**A few "old dears" in the same drab room,
glad for the cup of tea and the tinned biscuit
("I'll have just one!")**

**Old women praying in tiny circles
for the "dear missionaries" lovingly
one-by-one —**

**Reaching into nearby heaven with folded hands – and then the Master speaks joyfully,
"Well done!"**

Diane Dadian



BOOKS

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The Alternate Wedding Book. *Published by Northstone Publishing Inc. Price $12.95.*

The Alternative Wedding Book does not even look like the standard guide to nuptials. There are no advertisements, no glossy paper and full color photographs; only 124 pages of plain text and a promise to offer ideas for planning a meaningful wedding which "reflects your values and doesn't cost the earth."

Beginning with a tantalizingly brief history of weddings in the western world, *The Alternative Wedding Book* goes on to discuss such practical details as food, clothes, showers, invitations, music, reception locations, name changes and gift-giving. Sample ceremonies from different traditions are provided – not all of them Christian – along with suggestions for hymns and music. Special attention is given to second marriages and vow renewal ceremonies. One of the best features of the book is the collection of anecdotes printed in the margins, contributed by couples who did plan rather unique weddings. One couple bought all their flowers at a farmers' market and had their guests do the arranging; in another family, all the guests got together early in the morning to bake the bread for the celebration of Holy Communion which formed part of the wedding ceremony later in the day. Such stories may well get the reader's own creative juices flowing.

One of the most important themes in *The Alternative Wedding Book* is stewardship. In North America, where weddings are the basis for a multi-million dollar industry, couples planning to be married are challenged to think carefully about the responsible use of resources. Do I really need to spend $1500 on a gown I will wear for a few hours? What about the gilt invitations in their many layers of envelopes? And what will happen to all the food left over after the reception? As Christian people concerned about justice and stewardship, should we be having second thoughts about the amount of money we pour out for a single day? Is the beauty and meaning of the event really proportional to its cost?

The Alternative Wedding Book does not seek to make engaged couples feel guilty; neither does it deny the value of tradition or diminish the joy and excitement of weddings. It simply offers a fresh perspective on practices that sometimes cost a fortune but lack much lasting value. Some who read this book may still feel that clouds of tulle and organza, orchids and orange blossoms and sit-down gourmet dinners are still important to them. Others may feel freed to rethink their plans in favour of simpler alternatives. Whatever the reactions, most readers will probably enjoy this glimpse into the lives of couples who approached their special day with creativity and freedom; many will also appreciate the opportunity to take a new look at one of our oldest traditions.

Laura D. Alary

Extending the Table...A World Community Cookbook *by Joetta Handrich Schlabach. Herald Press. 1991. Price $22.75.*

This book is certainly different. It tells not only of some wonderful customs around the world, but gives some very fascinating recipes. If like me, you can never have enough recipe books, you'll love this one. Each recipe is made with easy to purchase items and chances are you have the ingredients in your cupboard. The recipes are easy to follow and, once made, very easy to enjoy.

There are stories and prayers inserted between recipes. The stories tell the origins of the recipe and how the author of the recipe came to have it.

What I loved most about this book were the hospitality stories. People with little (almost no) food offered what they had to their guests. Each country represented here has the same underlying theme "If I and my family have it, (no matter how little) I will share it with you." Freely and with joy.

Extending the Table has about 300 stories and about 1,000 recipes written in the spirit of doing more – with less.

If ever you needed one more recipe book, this is the one. Full of fun and gentle insights to human nature.

Barbara Marshall

Growing Old Begins Young: Planning to Enjoy Old Age *by Gordon Hunsberger. Published by Gordon Hunsberger. Price $11.95.*

The author of this book leads the reader through a variety of ways in preparation for growing older. He suggests that making plans for your retirement when you are younger will not be as traumatic a change. Some of the ways include financial security, health, faith issues, housing and accepting death. In the introduction, the author states that "there are many things we can do during our life's journey to help make our old age more pleasant and enjoyable."

We can learn about aging by watching older friends and family members. By observing how some people cope and accept their problems can be an inspiration and very encouraging for someone else. He explains that a strong faith in God has helped many elderly in sustaining their life.

As one grows older, there are many changes that occur. He talks about memory loss being attributed to diseases that affect the brain and mental functions such as Alzheimer's and strokes. It is important to keep elderly people involved in stimulating activities through reading and conversing with others.

This is an interesting book on how one can live a worthwhile, meaningful and enjoyable life. The chapter on "Staying Healthy" discusses health habits and has exercises to help keep the body flexible and the muscles and ligaments strong.

One chapter lists "Do-it-yourself ideas" which provide suggestions for accepting aging emotionally as well as intellectually. Some of the ideas include the importance of health habits; developing positive and optimistic attitudes, and keeping actively involved with people.

Chapter six talks about faith and religious beliefs, describing how we can become more aware of our spiritual needs. The author states that "religious beliefs can be a determining factor as to whether we live in peace and contentment or are subjected to violence and suffering...."

"Normal" is to remain alert, even in old age.

- Gordon Hunsbergerer

Anyone over 40 will benefit from reading this book. It has a lot of useful hints on how to prepare oneself for retirement and getting older.

Katherine Allen

RESOURCES RELATED TO THIS ISSUE

C0455 - What You Should Know About Accepting People Who Aren't Like You by William L. Coleman. Augsburg 1993. This book for 8-12-year-olds discusses many issues related to prejudice. Positive self esteem is encouraged. $8.25

C0374 - Let's Make a Garden by Tamara Awad Lobe. Herald Press 1995. A story of hope as boys and girls from 11 nations make a garden. "Oh, it's all so breathtakingly simple and so beautiful...to let our children plant a garden for the world. Then maybe the Holocaust might never have happened, maybe Bosnia, Somalia, Rwanda maybe..." [Archbishop Desmond Tutu on this book]. $11.35

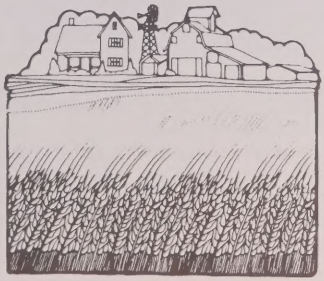
C0410 - Peace Begins With You by Catherine Scholes. Sierra Club Book 1989. For children of all ages - a challenge to be a peacemaker wherever we are. "...deserves a place in every home, every classroom, every church and community library" - from a review by Beth McIntosh. $8.95

G5662 - **True to You, Living Our Faith in a Multi-minded World** by Donald C. Posterski. Wood Lake Books 1995. Following your own beliefs, yet being aware of other people's faiths can be a challenge. Posterski offers an exploration of the multi-faith, multi-moral, and multi-cultural dimensions of our society. $17.95

G5806 - Gifts of Many Cultures, Worship Resources for the Global Community by Maren C. Tirabassi & Kathy Wonson Eddy. United Church Press, Cleveland 1995. These resources from around the world are designed to enrich worship. $27.50

G5033 - Spirit, Gospel, Cultures, Bible Studies on the Acts of the Apostles. WCC Publications 1995. A series of seven Bible studies on the Acts of the Apostles, designed to help people reread the Book of Acts in a way that will challenge and enlighten. The studies, on the relation between gospel and culture, have been prepared as part of a worldwide study process in preparation for the World Council of Churches' Conference on World Mission and Evangelism in Salvador, Brazil in November 1996. $6.95

Saskatchewan Thoughts



Wind dancing through the wheat
Spirit dancing in my mind
Evidence of growth
Manifestation of life

Whither now,
O Most Holy Spirit,
Whither now?

June Campbell

Dear Friends

David and Miriam Barrie
R. R. #2
Cambridge, ON N1R 5S3
February 1996

Naming'azi Farm Training Centre is growing and we are delighted that our goals for the farm are being reached. Shortly after our return, a group of farmers came for a three day seminar. Two weeks later 17 came and we hope to keep that up the year round.

We have our own agenda but always ask what problems the farmers are interested in. The first group listed their main problems as erosion, shortage of land and the high cost of seed and fertilizer. Do these sound familiar to farmers? We enjoyed being part of the get acquainted session as we learned about each participant. A few were unable to read and write so our lessons must allow for that.

One woman was excited when she learned how to make a compost heap which cost her nothing compared to fertilizer which so few people can afford. I was so glad that my brother George was able to accompany me to visit her small field and see the results of applying compost. We like to do follow-up visits and our other stop was with an 84-year-old chief to see his results.

Our program includes the importance of soil and controlling erosion highlighted by making and using an A-Frame. This is a simple but very important no-cost tool which we combine with other soil protecting methods e.g. planting vetiver grass and trees for specific purposes such as hedges, firewood, poles and nitrogen fixing.

We are constantly asked when our bananas are ready or when are you harvesting your fish pond. The latest project is our Demonstration. On about one acre of land (about the average size of a farm) we will show villagers how to make the best use of their land using only the resources they have.

We hope by the time our water tank and pipes are completed that electricity will reach the farm so we can hook up our pump in the new well.

The school on the farm has now grown to 453 pupils and serves Standard 1 & 2 in the morning and 3 & 4 in the afternoon with four teachers and a headmaster. The pupil-teacher ratio in Malawi is 131-1.

It's been great fun this year having our 8-year-old granddaughter Miriam with us. She attends school in Zomba then spends her afternoons at the farm playing with Anderson Kamwendo's children (the Farm Director).

Thanks for your continued prayers and financial support for our work at Naming'azi Farm. God has blessed Malawi with abundant rains this season so predictions are for a good harvest.

David & Miriam

Michael & Wendy Lessard-Clouston
1-1-127 Uegahara
Nishinomiya, Hyogo-ken
Japan 662
March 1996

We celebrated a busy Christmas including having many students, faculty, neighbours, and friends to our home for meals or Wendy's Christmas goodies. Christmas is largely just another day in Japan, but the university held various activities, including a wonderful worship concert at Symphony Hall in Osaka. At church, we enjoyed an

evening candlelight Christmas Eve service, as well as luncheon and program after regular Sunday worship. In the morning three people were baptized. Later, Wendy left with Joel, while Michael stayed and celebrated with our Japanese Christian family, the church. In a country where less than 1% of the population claim to follow Jesus, it was wonderful to celebrate his birth with others who sang and did skits.

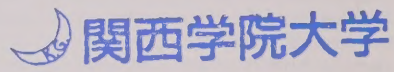
Then I [Michael] was asked to say something impromptu. Already emotional with joy, I then felt terrible. Here I was, a missionary to Japan, being asked to say something simple to my church, and I couldn't communicate. I apologized in Japanese and then said slowly in English how we appreciate our local church, because they are our "family" in Japan. Please pray that in this next year both of us might find the time and energy to do more disciplined part-time study of the (extremely difficult) Japanese language.

Joel travelled wonderfully from Japan and to Ottawa. His grandparents and relatives have showered him with love and affection, and he has had a great time with cousins Carly and Ryan. Please continue to pray for Joel, his safety and development. We especially wish he had other children with whom to play and interact. In Japan he attends a weekly play group, but most of his contact is with adults.

Wendy's discussion group finished for the year in February, with a farewell party at our home. Eight of the twelve participants graduate this month, but want to continue to meet annually for reunions. I [Wendy] am very grateful for these students who have befriended me during this year and look forward to continuing to build on these relationships during the next one. Please pray for those starting new jobs, as well as students returning for the next year. We continue to use our home for hospitality often.

While in Canada, I have been asked what the most difficult part of this first year has been. For me, the challenge of being a woman in Japan has been most difficult. The cultural expectations and the lack of respect that often comes with being a "stay-at-home mom" has been challenging. I recognize that as a foreigner I actually have much more freedom and fewer expectations than Japanese women, and I become frustrated and sometimes angry about the inequality that I see. Please pray that I will have humility and wisdom in dealing with these issues in a Christian yet culturally appropriate way.

A paper Michael did on learning and teaching in China a few years ago will appear in a European journal later this year. Presenting and writing are two aspects of my job that I [Michael] enjoy, in addition to teaching English. As I will use all new materials in three of my four courses, please pray that my teaching will continue to go well with new students this next academic year, starting in April. Please also pray that I might have good blocks of time and the ability to focus on my Ph.D. dissertation research and writing. As the psalmist writes in Ps. 90:17, "May the favour of the Lord our God rest upon us; establish the work of our hands for us – yes, establish the work of our hands."



As we close, thank you. We could not serve in Japan without your constant prayer support. We feel very much in a spiritual battle. Please remember in prayer Kwansei Gakuin University (whose name in Japanese and crescent symbol are above), its staff and 15,000 students, 95% of whom are not Christian. We would especially appreciate prayer for unity in our missionary community at KGU, which will undergo some transitions soon. As Paul wrote some time ago, "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit" (Romans 15:13).

Sincerely,
Michael & Wendy

Joy Randall,
Changhua Christian Hospital,
135 Nan Siau Street,
Changhua, Taiwan 500, ROC
March 1996

Easter Greetings. May our Risen Lord bring love, joy and peace and His promise of Eternal Life to you.

I have been back in Taiwan for nearly three months. The hospital has continued to be busy and many improvements and plans have taken place. Part III is up to the first floor and we expect it to be completed next summer and ready for use shortly after that. Thus we are in the final stages of the inner part and also deciding on hiring of more doctors and staff to prepare and train for that time. Our department visits the Nursing College over the next few weeks to introduce our hospital and department. We have interviews and exams in May and June and hope many of the new staff will come in July-August.

Our Er Lin Branch opened fully last November and now has 120 beds with service increasing. ...Since it is new more staff are willing to go there.

Bible Study begins in April at the Y in Yuan Lin and in Changhua. Looking forward to this and contacts with the members. I will have to determine their level of English the first night as to what depth we are able to study the Bible. We usually sing a few songs too. Please pray this will be a challenge to the students and bring new knowledge of Christianity to them.

I appreciate your prayers:
- for the political stability of Taiwan especially as the first democratic elections of the President and Vice-President have been held. Over 75% of those eligible voted and President Lee was elected with 54%. Democratic Progressive Party Peng came in second which was good for the first time. The Kuomintang (KMT) still have the majority in the government [but there is continued pressure from the People's Republic of China and a strained relationship with them]. Request your prayers that there will continue to be peaceful resolution of many of these concerns and problems.
- for the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan as it continues to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ and for their evangelism for these years leading to year 2000. May we continue to spread the light to all of Taiwan.
- for our Nursing Department as we visit Nursing Colleges, have exams and interviews for new staff during these next three months. Pray especially that we will find some dedicated Christian nurses to serve.
- for the various activities to celebrate our Hospital's 100th Anniversary.

God bless each and everyone,
In His Love,
Joy

Margaret and Jake
Vanderzweerde,
7414 Westfield Drive,
Niagara Falls, ON L2J 3V8
March 1996

Jake and I arrived back in India on March 3rd, and since then have been to Jhansi for a few days to see Diana and get my "Indian Wardrobe" before we go from

here.

We were excited to see the progress at Jhansi on the new science block which is being constructed as an addition to the H.M.M. Inter College. There was also a wonderful reunion with the children and the teachers. One of "our" children was celebrating a birthday and for her I had bought a children's bible at the India Bible Society in Delhi. Jasmine is a good reader and promptly read us a story, before walking away, proudly carrying her "treasure". I pray that in God's own time she will come to fully realize what a real treasure the Bible is.

Back in New Delhi we were invited by Dr. Sam Kishan, Secretary of the Church of North India's Synodical Health Board to attend the official opening of the CNI-SBHS consultation on "Safe Motherhood, Nursing Care, Aids, etc." The resource people are from the UK and India. The Consultation was a "lead in" to a program, on a grand scale, in health. It is funded by the German Christian Development Corporation called EZE. Pauline Brown has been appointed acting coordinator for the Community Health aspect of this program into which the sponsors are pouring astronomical amounts of money.

Jake and I left Delhi for Bhagalpur on the eve of the 11th and, after an overnight, 22-hour train journey, arrived safely, albeit tired. We were met by Bishop Bagh's representative and taken to Bishop's House. Over the course of three days we visited "Sewica", a training centre for women. The PCC has contributed to the construction of the building, as well as to the purchase of equipment. The wall plaque, installed at the entrance, gives credit to these gifts. I spent time with the women, talking and encouraging them, on your behalf, to build a better future for themselves and their families.

We also were taken to St. Luke's hospital, Hiranpur, where last year we had seen a great need for equipment and building repairs. It was good to see that the money which had been designated, as listed in the "Something Extra" booklet was put to good use.

Dr. Barnabas Murmu, the medical superintendent and our host invited me to observe in surgery. I was very impressed with his skills under poor conditions and with whatever is available.

It was a new experience to attend and participate in the Lenten prayer and praise service, conducted by the light of three candles and individual flashlights. However, these Christians really don't need light. They know their Bible by heart as well as the hymns they sing.

After Hiranpur we went to Barharwar's St. Thomas School for girls. This school, I believe, is also mentioned in "Something Extra" and last year we had become involved with the work here. This year I was able to bring the young girls a doll, the gift of a congregation within the PCC.

As I sit here on the verandah, I rejoice in all I see. The "natural" wall of the verandah is of flowerpots with plants, large and small, shrubs and small trees - crotons of many varieties, six-feet high poinsettias, ivies, rubber trees, fig trees, etc. and many colorful flowers, presenting a symphony of color, texture and scent. Beyond the "wall" I look over the countryside and see the women returning from market. Wearing colorful saris and carrying their purchases on their heads, they have tucked their little ones under their arms.

How grateful I am to God for giving me a mother who taught me to "see" the beauty that surrounds us in all things, large or small, and to listen as God comes to us in a still small voice and everyday happenings. This morning I was absolutely elated when I awoke to the sound of the children singing, in clear young voices, their morning prayers and hymns of praise.

Tomorrow we leave for Delhi and from there Jake goes to Jhansi and I will proceed to Ludhiana where I will attend the Board meeting of the Ludhiana Medical College and Hospital on behalf of the PCC and the CCC's committee on Vellore/Ludhiana Medical Colleges and familiarize myself to a greater extent with the Colleges (medical and nursing) and the hospital.

From Ludhiana we went to Jobat, via Jhansi, and celebrated Easter there in a most unusual way. At 4:30 a.m. on Easter morning the women and a number of men went from their homes to a hill to watch day break. In the total dark the hill resembled a cemetery because of the rock formations. We all sat on the rocks, or stood among them, holding candles, singing, praying, and reading portions of Scripture. As the light of the not yet risen sun dispelled the darkness, chasing away the shadows, and revealing the eager faces of the community assembled, it brought home again the Truth that the Risen Son, if accepted by us, individually, also dispels the dark of sin, giving way to light and life and joy.

At the Jobat Christian Hospital the Easter weekend was a busy one. Dr. Tezlo and the managing committee had indicated their desire to hold an eye camp for the poor, allowing them to come and be examined by eye doctors. Those needing cataract surgery are then operated on "assembly line style".

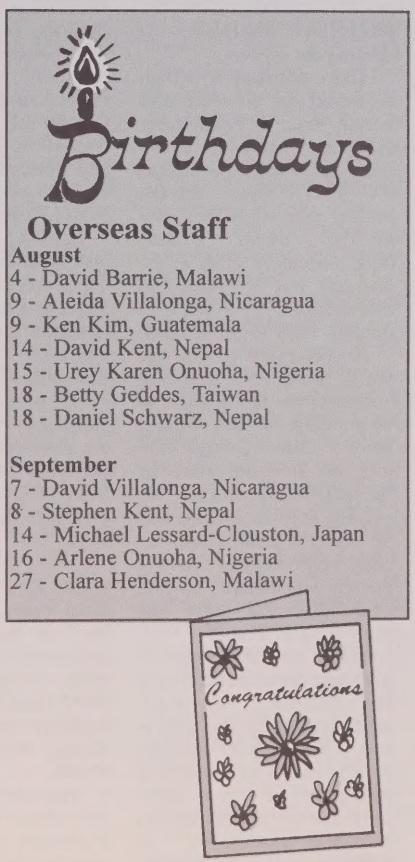
On Saturday 990 people were seen by the doctors. Many were sent home, some were referred elsewhere, others received prescriptions for eye glasses and others were accepted for surgery. In all 110 patients were operated on for cataracts and the success rate is believed to be about 75-80%.

And so, on Easter day, in the Name of Him who opened the eyes of the blind, this little mission hospital in Central India became the place where sight was restored to the blind and hopes raised for a brighter future.

Having returned to Jhansi on April 9th we see the progress on the new science block and the new guestroom being prepared. The three new computers for the Margaret Leask Memorial English School have arrived and next week there will be an official opening of that special room. A new principal has been hired for the English Medium School. He and the principal of the HMM school will lead the two schools into the future under the guidance of a manager, yet to be appointed. Diana, who was scheduled to return to Canada on May 22nd, has agreed to delay her departure and remain for some extra months to facilitate the transfer of work to the new principal and manager.

Please continue to pray for all the mission work and the personnel here in India and everywhere.

In His Love and Service,
Margaret



NEWS

WCC TO CUT STAFFING

Geneva, 4 April (ENI) – The World Council of Churches, one of the world's biggest church organizations, will have to cut its staffing to meet a projected shortfall in income for 1997.

The organization, which is based in Geneva and which has 330 member churches worldwide, has to achieve a balanced budget for 1997. Their current budget (for 1996) is 103 million Swiss Francs (approximately US$ 85.83 million) but its projected income for 1997 is approximately US$ 78.33 million.

A spokesperson for the WCC told ENI that the budget cuts - in the order of 10 per cent - would require, among other savings, the loss of the equivalent of "several staff positions", by making staff redundant and by other measures such as early retirement or leaving vacant positions empty. The WCC currently has more than 270 staff.

It was not yet possible to give any precise figures for the reduction in staff, according to the spokesperson. The WCC budget review has to be completed by the end of July in order to be sent to members of its central committee in advance of a central committee meeting in September this year.

The WCC intends to maintain its current program priorities in the run-up to its next assembly, to take place in Harare in 1998, and to "maintain the viability of the WCC within the present constitutional and structural framework".

NEWS - MISSION STUDY THEMES

LUTHERAN WOMAN TO LEAD CHURCH

Geneva, 10 April (ENI) – With the election of Josephine Tso as president of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hong Kong, a woman is leading, for the first time, an Asian member church of the Lutheran World Federation.

Ishmael Noko, LWF general secretary, described Tso's election as a further step towards the equal participation of women in the church. According to *Lutherische Welt-information,* based in Geneva, Noko said that he was of the firm conviction that by the year 2000, more and more women would be in positions of church leadership.

Tso is a member of the local preparatory committee for the LWF's next assembly, which will take place in Hong Kong in 1997, one week after the handover of power in Hong Kong from Britain to China.

The LWF has 122 member churches worldwide, including 40 member churches in Asia.

HONG KONG LAND SALE BENEFITS CHARITY

London, 21 March (ENI) – A relatively small London-based mission organization has suddenly become one of Great Britain's top 10 charities, thanks to a windfall of £92 million (about US$ 130 million) from land sales in Hong Kong.

The Council for World Mission (CWM) will now follow Britain's National Trust and the Wellcome Trust in a "league table" - ranked by level of investment - of charities.

Until now, CWM, which has an annual operating budget of about 2.5 million pounds, has been - in financial terms - one of less significant UK-registered charities.

The gain of £92 million follows the sale of land in Hong Kong belonging to its predecessor, the London Missionary Society. A hospital founded by the LMS was built on the site, but the hospital was taken over by the Hong Kong government, and, in 1993, was moved to another site. The land was sold for £135 million but a proportion has

been set aside for medical work and for the benefit of Chinese people in Hong Kong and mainland China.

CWM has launched a world-wide consultation process for all member churches to discuss how the windfall should be used before final decisions are taken at an extraordinary CWM council meeting in July this year.

CWM is an international missionary body with 31 member churches worldwide. It includes churches from the northern hemisphere which used to send missionaries to developing countries, and churches from the southern hemisphere to which the missionaries were sent. Since 1977 sending and receiving churches have taken part in CWM as equal partners. Only six of its member churches are in Europe and only 17 out of 62 missionaries sponsored by CWM come from Europe.

CWM is also reviewing its investment policy and investigating bodies such as the Ecumenical Development Co-operative Society (EDCS - see information in Council report) which have a lower rate of interest but provide funds for projects in developing countries.

Andrea Adams, CWM's moderator, said that the amount was realized "because the land was in Hong Kong, one of the 'winning' countries in the global economy".

"In putting the money to use, CWM must be specially conscious of the plight of the 'losers'," she said.

"In seeking the way forward, we need to look beyond ourselves and beyond our church institutions to the needs of God's whole created order."

HONG KONG IMMIGRANTS BOOST CHURCHES

Vancouver, Canada, 14 March (ENI) – Over 200 Chinese Christian congregations in Canada are preparing for a new influx of migrants in the run-up to the handover of power in Hong Kong, next year, from Britain to China.

Sources in Hong Kong say there has been a 60 per cent increase in applications for emigration to Canada in recent months. Anxiety over the July 1997 handover of the British colony to China is generally seen as the reason.

"The present mood in Hong Kong is rather negative," the pastor of a Chinese congregation in Vancouver told ENI. "A friendly takeover is not expected."

Over 25 per cent of the migrants from Hong Kong – totalling more than 10,000 in each of the last four years – have settled in British Columbia.

Of the 231 Chinese Christian congregations in Canada, 60 are in the southern mainland region of British Columbia.

Canada's first Chinese congregation was established in Victoria, the capital of British Columbia, in 1892. Recent decades have seen the establishment of many Chinese congregations, reflecting the entire spectrum of the Christian faith. Most congregations belong to the Vancouver Chinese Evangelical Ministerial Fellowship.

It is estimated that more than 7,000 Chinese Christians live in the Greater Vancouver area, the biggest city sprawl in British Columbia. There is a far higher number of non-Christian Chinese residents in the same region.

The first Chinese migrants to Canada – in the 19th century – were unskilled labourers from China's southern coastal regions. The number of Chinese migrants to Canada then slowed to a trickle, but a fresh wave began in the 1960s when students and refugees came from Hong Kong in large numbers. During the last 25 years, professionals, scholars and business people from Hong Kong have been in the majority. In 1992, the Chinese population in Canada reached 766,000. – Ferdy Baglo

MENNONITES REBUKE BEIJING

Taipei, 12 March (ENI) – The Fellowship of Mennonite Churches in Taiwan has strongly criticised Beijing's intimidation

of the Taiwanese people and government.

As the international community grows increasingly concerned about Beijing's missile tests in the region, which seem designed to deter moves for outright declarations of Taiwanese independence, delegates at the 38th annual conference of the Mennonite Fellowship in Taiwan declared in a statement: "We strongly oppose the Chinese Beijing government's use of the media to attack Taiwan, missile-testing exercises near Taiwan's shores and the plots to invade Taiwan that threaten us."

The conference, meeting earlier this month, also urged the Taiwanese government to gain entry as soon as possible to the United Nations and other international organisations. Beijing is bitterly opposed to Taiwanese participation in international institutions.

READERS WRITE

I have been receiving cassette tapes for several years, and appreciate this service very much. There is no WMS group in the church here but this service keeps me in touch with the mission work of our denomination.

I am enclosing a cheque for $20.00 to help with the cost of producing and mailing of the tapes.

Sincerely,
Margaret Paterson,
Englehart, ON

Dear friends:

I've just read the current Glad Tidings (March/April 1996) from cover to cover and I thank you for each article - there's so much good will and hope, and it's good to hear it. I shall pass this copy on to my new church here, The Salt Spring Island United Church and I'm sure there will be some who will also enjoy and appreciate its contents.

In love,
Grace Garceau,
Salt Spring Island, BC

Dear Glad Tidings Folk:

This great magazine is a blessing and I am always sorry when the ending comes. I look forward to each publication. The articles re "missionaries" are informative, most interesting and help me to pray more specifically for them. I especially enjoyed and was amused re "Information Highway".

The [cassette tape] readers are doing a wonderful job and listening is a real pleasure. Receiving the "Talking Book" is very much appreciated and I thank God repeatedly for this avenue. May God richly and abundantly bless all who have a part in the putting together of the too small but terrific magazine.

The Camp Kintail memos made me think seriously about going in June.

Thanks so much for this outreach program.

Sincerely in Christ,
Sophie Jackson,
Sarnia,ON

IN THE SOCIETY

SYNODICAL

The Road to Emmaus.
The theme of our 80th **B.C**. Synodical.
Two churches of Vancouver
Held this annual B.C. event.

Great speakers came from near and far,
New thoughts for us o'erflowing,
A journey down Emmaus Road,
Bright hope for us conveying.

Ring out the old!
Bring in the new!
Our WMS is alive and true.
True to our own Purpose.

Sound planning, good meals and laughter
Round out this time together.
With prayerful hearts,
We then depart,
Till we meet again in October.

- Thanks to Norma Lyon for this creative "highlight".

Called to Serve was the theme of **Hamilton and London** Synodical's 45th Annual Meeting held in Central Church, Brantford on April 16-17. Eleanor Irwin, president conducted the meetings.

David Smith, executive director of Evangel Hall, the Presbyterian inner-city mission in downtown Toronto was the guest speaker.

Mr. Smith thanked the WMS for their support and added that "We cannot help all, but help all who we can". His dream is that Evangel Hall can be open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, instead of 12 hours a day, six days a week.

The evening entertainment was the "Humble and the Meek", a group of musicians from near Woodstock who played and sang secular and religious music with Rev. Warren McKinnon as leader.

Margaret Greig led the Bible Study "Where the Call Comes From" using the scripture of Jesus and the woman of Samaria (John 4:1-42).

Greetings were brought by Rev. Rosemary Doran, president of Council Executive and information of the retirements and new appointments of national staff.

Hymns for the new Book of Praise were introduced by song leaders Margaret Greig and Susie Strickler.

Worship services were led by Margaret McCullogh and Jean Stewart from London Presbyterial, Betty Krogie and Joyce McLeod from Niagara Presbyterial and Martha Ebert, Betty Hetherington, Lois Watson, Margaret McNeil and Bonnie Arbour from Sarnia Presbyterial based on the theme "Called to Serve".

Four workshops were conducted: Barbara Persaud on *Education for Mission International*; Anne Gedke, *University Chaplaincy*; Carol Mackowski, *Redesigning for Mission*; and Rev. Heather Vais, *Where Am I In Mission*?

Rev. Mark Gaskin gave a report on Camp Kintail.

Spencer Edwards, Synod Youth Consultant, reported on Youth Ministry and urged support for all youth leaders in our congregations.

The election of officers and installation was conducted by Rev. Rosemary Doran.

The Synodical of **Quebec and Eastern Ontario** held its Annual Meeting in Parkwood Church, Nepean, Ontario April 12-13. The theme was from Matthew 25:35-36. Welcomes were given by Vera MacEwen, president, Evelyn Warburton from Parkwood Church and Bette Crerar from Ottawa Presbyterial. Bette led the devotions and conducted a memorial service.

Workshops were held on *Prayer* by Pat

Earl, *How to Lead a Bible Study* by Dr. Ruth Whitehead and the *Five-Year Plan* by Mary Moorhead.

Martha MacLean from Armagh was the guest speaker on Friday. Rev. Willis Sayers conducted the evening worship service and the offering was given to Armagh for its work with abused women and their children.

On Saturday Lanark and Renfrew Presbyterial led the worship service with a skit "Jesus is coming to visit". Rev. Donald MacKay on furlough from Nigeria gave an interesting account of his work at Trinity College and challenged the WMS to keep mission at the fore in the church.

Ann Blane conducted a workshop on Churches in Europe.

PRESBYTERIAL

Essex-Kent Presbyterial held their Annual Meeting on March 27 at Valetta Church, Merlin, Ontario. President Bessie Robertson constituted the meeting and Rev. Kate Pfeffer extended greetings from the host church.

Our theme for 1996 is "Sharing our Heritage" and for the day was "Peace and Justice". Isabell Warwick from Knox, Windsor led in worship followed by an "In Memoriam" service led by Muriel Brown from Paulin Memorial, Windsor.

Highlights of our day were: a report from President of Council Executive Rev. Rosemary Doran on her trip to Western Canada; a presentation to AEC Margaret Greig for all of her assistance and for good wishes in her new job; Barbara McLean, guest speaker, who attended the 4th UN Women's Conference in Beijing, China. Crys Stammler of Paulin thanked our guest.

Rosemary Doran installed the executive for 1996 with Barbara Root as President.

The **Ottawa** Presbyterial held its Annual Meeting on February 17th at St. Andrew's Church, Ottawa. The theme, "Women dreaming the world: Solidarity and Hope", was based on a Bible Study connected to the UN Conference on Women. The speaker was Rhonda Ferderber, one of the official Canadian representatives to that conference.

The meeting opened with a sing-along led by Bette Crerar, accompanied by Ann Crain, and devotions were led by Vae Rankin. Also bringing messages were Joan Sampson and Irene Nesbitt.

As part of the meeting, the Presbyterial accepted a new set of by-laws, following much work by a committee comprised of Elizabeth Klassen, Jean Phillips and Marian Rae.

- Pictured are left to right: Peggy Malcolm, new President of Presbyterial, Rhonda Ferderber, speaker and Alice Chadwick, Presbyterial Treasurer and elder of St. Andrew's, Ottawa.

The morning session of the Annual Meeting of **Winnipeg** Presbyterial, March 2 was cancelled in order to allow all to attend the Memorial Service for **Agnes Isabelle Arnold**, best known as "Nancibelle", Honorary President of the Presbyterial.

Nancibelle passed away on February 23, 1996, at the age of 88, following a lifetime of service to her Lord. She was a lifetime member of St. John's Church in Winnipeg, taught Sunday School, was the first woman ordained as an elder in St. John's, President of the Ellen Douglas Auxiliary and co-editor of St. John's Church magazine, "The Accent".

As an educator, she taught in Cecilia Jeffrey School in Kenora. She was teacher, principal, and co-ordinator of

special education in the Seven Oaks School Division of Winnipeg.

Isabelle was loved by the church family and respected in the Community. A few years ago a street was named Agnes Arnold, and more recently the wing of a new school was named the Agnes Arnold Wing.

She was honoured two years ago as a longtime member of the Board of Flora House. She was the embodiment of our WMS Purpose.

The afternoon session was devoted to business. Noreen Gillanders, having completed her term as President, relinquished the chair to Elizabeth Watkins. The Rev. Dr. James D. Marnoch was named Honorary President, and he installed the officers. One of this Presbyterial's responsibilities is planning for the Western Women's Conference (see ad on page 38).

Members of the **Bruce-Grey** Presbyterial were greeted with uplifting music by the "Music Makin' Moms." This year's Annual Meeting took place March 28 at St. Andrew's Church in Allenford, Ontario. The theme of the day was "Mission in Transition."

Special guests included Margaret Greig, AEC and Bea Scott who served as a missionary in India.

The morning's business session consisted of reports being received and approved.

Guest speaker Giselle Ireland, author of several books, gave a presentation on Cropshare and the Canadian Foodgrains Bank. Local crops (like those at Teeswater) are effectively used to enable those in foreign countries to become more self-sufficient.

Guest speaker Lorna Howell spoke on "CGIT - Alive and Well!" This Christ-centered club is still making a difference in the lives of young girls today.

A lively workshop led by Carol Mackowski emphasized the changes that have taken place in missions.

Closing worship was led by Pat Carpenter, based on John 20:1-18 and Acts 10:34-48. She challenged us to think of our reaction to the news "Jesus is Alive."

As a send off to her new position at Church Offices, Margaret Greig was presented with a gift and words of thanks.

"Only God can make a church grow" stated Dr. Harold Cumming, a member of Calvin Church, Thunder Bay, as he addressed the 82nd Annual Meeting of **Superior** Presbyterial on March 2, at Lakeview Church. Calvin Church is experiencing such a growth in membership that their present building is too small. Dr. Cumming was introduced by Rev. Milton Fraser, minister at Calvin Church, and thanked by Presbyterial President, Isabella Hunter.

The theme of the opening worship led by the President, was *Hand in Hand in Mission* and the scripture reference was Romans 15:1-6.

Brenda Patterson, Literature Secretary, introduced the mission studies: Europe and The U.N. and the Offering Project for Children. A short skit in which the U.N. was defendant on trial against such problems as poverty and war was used to introduce the packet.

After lunch served by the women of Lakeview Church, a Memorial Service was conducted by members of St. Andrew's WMS.

The officers were installed by Rev. Jim Ferrier of Lakeview Church.

The new President, Brenda Patterson thanked Isabella Hunter, past president, and Dorothy Finson, past recording secretary, for jobs well done.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Rev. Jim Ferrier.

The Spring Rally of **Sarnia** Presbyterial was held April 24 at St. Andrew's, Strathroy, Ontario beginning with a potluck supper. Welcome was extended by Presbyterial president Margaret McNeil and Margaret Smith of the host church.

A local barbershop quartette 'Rural Roots' favored with several favorite songs. The evening speaker Anna Jean McCoskery shared her one-month visit last year to China by way of slides and commentary.

Waterloo-Wellington Presbyterial held a "Day Apart" at Knox's Church, (Galt) Cambridge on May 4th. The theme was *Forward with Christ*. Worship was conducted by Sandy Giles who read from Philippians 3:12-4:1. Dorothy McCombie gave a meditation and prayer. Isabel Lyons welcomed everyone on behalf of Knox's Church.

Lynda Reid, Regional Staff, and the organizing committee led a workshop on the Five-Year Plan of the WMS. Four topics regarding Presbyterial level were *Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats*, which were discussed in small groups and then the whole group, after which the groups met and prioritized the actions that might be taken.

Following lunch, served by the women of Knox's, Carol Porter sang two lovely solos.

At the end of the session, two hymns were sung, and Helen Braes closed the "Day Apart" with prayer.

The 82nd Annual meeting of the **Montreal** Presbyterial was held at the Chinese Presbyterian Church in Montreal on March 16. Greetings were extended for the host church by Kim Hum who also gave the history of the church. The worship service was led by Rev. Cirric Chan.

Presiding over the meeting was President Mary-Lou Johnston. After a business meeting and the reading and discussion of reports, an exercise break was led by Grace Thornley-Brown.

Guest speaker was Rev. Richard Fee, Director of Presbyterian World Service and Development who gave a very interesting talk.

The afternoon session began with a singalong led by Joycelyn Mackay with Jan Manson at the piano. There was a very graceful demonstration of Tai Chi and also instruction on writing Chinese characters. Jan Manson gave the report of the nominating committee and the installation of officers for 1996-97 was performed by Ann Blane.

East Toronto Presbyterial's Spring Rally was hosted by Trinity Church, North York, Ontario on April 29. The evening started with a lively hymn sing led by Joan Neilson and Gladys Anderson. Words of welcome were expressed by Giollo Kelly, President of East Toronto Presbyterial and Jean Dimitrieff, President of Trinity's Presbyterian Women's Group.

Deborah Kerner and Jean Dimitrieff of Trinity, led in the devotions based on the theme *Journeys of Life*. Eva Powrie, Literature Secretary, gave three book reviews and had a display of books for sale.

Rev. Rick Fee, director of PWS&D, was the guest speaker. Mr. Fee's topic "The Good Canadian" was based on the story of the "Good Samaritan". He spoke with enthusiasm and conviction, making us proud of our heritage and of our accomplishments, but challenged us for the future. Mr. Fee concluded his talk with slides.

The 82nd Annual Meeting of **Calgary-Macleod** Presbyterial was held in St. Giles Church in Calgary February 2-3, 1996, with the opening worship service and service of Holy Communion being conducted by Rev. Jean Morris, and the Service of Remembrance led by Mollie Harback.

President Heather Swaney acknowledged Rev. Rosemary Doran, WMS President; Rev. Dr. Roy Gellatly, Regional Staff; and Janette Mackie, President of A.N.C.C. (formerly Synodical).

Rosemary Doran spoke about her feelings on becoming the President of the WMS, and of the new experiences and challenges to be met. In addressing our theme *Together in Unity* she stressed the importance of pooling our resources, of learning to listen and to delegate. We were urged to value our talents and to use them.

The **London** Presbyterial Retreat for 1996 was held on May 2 at Pearce Williams Christian Centre with the theme *Prayer*. The program for the day was prepared by Marion McDonald and Anna Crawford of the Glencoe Evening Group.

Guest speaker was Gary Alan Price, London. He spoke of his former work, his present Financial Consulting Business, and his present association with the Jesse's Journey to raise the awareness of gene research.

Prayers of other faiths were discussed by Twyla Gibb, Mary Nisbet, Lorna Dickison and Corrie Vink.

Following a brown bag lunch in the dining hall, social recreation was led by Katherine Eichenberger, and Verna Johnson, on the violin, was accompanied by Anna Crawford on the piano.

The afternoon program was a "W5 on Prayer" presentation as a panel - What - Who - Why - When - Where - with Norma McMillan, Catherin McMillan, Hilde Morden, Ruth Campbell and Jean McKillop giving answers to these questions.

Meditation was led by Mary McKellar and Dorothy Munro of Burns Mosa. Courtesies were offered by Marion McDonald to conclude a day of fellowship by over 75.

SYNODICAL REQUESTS PHOTOS

The Hamilton-London Synodical WMS will be celebrating its 50th anniversary in 1997. We are anxious to find pictures of early presidents - Mrs. D. Munro, Hamilton; Mrs. W. E. Stauth, Windsor; Mrs. Arthur Hamilton, Atwood; Mrs. W. Wheaton, Port Stanley and Mrs. Donald McInnis, Ridgetown. If you can help please contact Mrs. A. Neal, 1012 Kensington Blvd., Sarnia, Ontario N7S 1N2.

- Charlotte Farris is pictured with Dr. James Cooper, minister of St. Andrew's, Port Credit.

Recently, the Minister and Kirk Session of St. Andrew's Memorial Church bestowed the title of Diaconal Minister Emeritus upon Charlotte Farris.

Charlotte has served as a Deaconess for 47 years - 37 of them with St. Andrew's, Port Credit. She has also been very active over the years with the WMS.

Margaret Jean Nugent (Patterson) passed away in Abbotsford, BC on April 3, 1996, after a lengthy illness.

Jean was born in London, Ontario, attended Central Collegiate in London and graduated from the University of Western Ontario in 1938 with an Honors B.A. in Greek and Latin.

She earned a Teaching Certificate in Physical Education and Languages from the Ontario Teachers' College in 1939. For two years she taught in Cobourg, Ontario. There she met, and in 1942 married the Rev. W. Oliver Nugent, a Presbyterian minister.

The Nugents lived in Brandon, Manitoba, Edmonton, Alberta, then Abbotsford, British Columbia. Jean taught French and Spanish at Abbotsford Senior High School. She was active in the Alliance Francaise, the University Women's Club, Sunday School, CGIT, and WMS. Jean held the position of president in Brandon, Edmonton and Abbotsford. She was well known at Presbyterial (where she served as Vice-President) and Synodical levels. She was a life member of the WMS and ordained an elder of the

Presbyterian Church in Canada.

The Nugents raised four children, Robert, Timothy, Marion and Jane, and enjoyed eleven grandchildren.

Jean was a student of the Scriptures - she read every portion of God's word and memorized many passages.

- Thanks to Beverley Wright, Abbotsford, B.C. for the above.

A ceremony that was both sad and beautiful was performed recently as the WMS of **St. Andrew's** Church, **South Eldon**, Ontario was disbanded.

The WMS was organized over 100 years ago. The group made the decision to disband after the church closed in July of 1995.

The meeting began with a supper to which husbands were invited. Two members, Ruth Flynt and Helen Torrey were presented with honorary membership certificates and pins.

Every member took part in the worship service: Rev. Mary Whitson, President Helen Torrey, Ruth Flynt, Eleanor Houghton, Norma MacEachern, Ruth MacEachern, Barbara McEachern, Gladys McEachern, Marie Riley, and Mary Ellen Taylor. The roll call was especially interesting as everyone recalled memories and people who were a part of this group through the years.

Lynda Reid, Resource Person for Toronto-Kingston Synodical was a special guest and conducted the service of closing. Lynda read parts of Isaiah 43 and reminded us that as we celebrate and rejoice in what has gone before, God promises that new things will come out of the closure of this group. She spoke of the group's contribution to St. Andrew's Church and to the common mission of the WMS. Lynda ended this part of the service with prayer.

Rev. Mary Whitson pronounced the benediction.

On April 18, the Knox WMS of **Morrisburg**, Ontario held their annual Family Night. President Margaret Reynolds welcomed members, the COC, Explorers, their families and friends.

Ruth Kirkwood opened the meeting with the call to worship. The theme was *Trust in God.* Hymns for the evening were accompanied by Beatrice Shaver playing the piano. Emily Ferguson read the scriptures, meditation and the prayer. Ruth Kirkwood then told the children a very interesting story. Judy Messenger from Kemptville brought words of greetings to the children on behalf of the Brockville Presbyterial.

- Pictured above are some members, and the then pastor, Rev. Hugh Jack, of the Presbyterian Church of the Town of Mount Royal (Montreal, Quebec) on the occasion (June 1995) of planting a tree in memory of the late Elizabeth I. Kennedy. Liz was an extremely active member of the WMS.

The offering will be sent to Nicaragua for street children and for Darlino, a foster child from the Philippines, adopted by our group. Special music was presented by six WMS women with Bea Shaver at the piano.

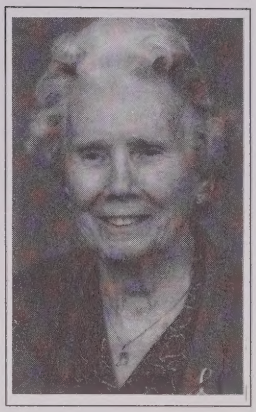
Seventeen membership certificates were presented to the COC with the help of assistant leader Myrtle Wingeat and guest Judy Messenger. Three COC members received a pin and a graduation certificate. Rev. Greg Blatch presented the Explorers with a crest, button, stars, picture and certificate. Six Explorers graduating will receive a gold E pin.

Special guests from St. John's Church, Cornwall entertained with a delightful puppet show "Carraway Street". Jo Mott then presented an honorary membership to Catherine Blatch for her devoted work with the WMS group.

*- Sarah Williams is shown above at the Laura K. Pelton WMS party, **St. Andrew's, Windsor**, Ontario, in celebration of her 100th birthday. "Sadie" is a faithful attender at meetings. With her is President Edyth Cook.*

Jean Campbell, a member of **Strathcona** Church in **Edmonton, Alberta** celebrated her 100th birthday on April 22, 1996.

Mrs. Campbell is a Life Member, and long time supporter of the WMS at Strathcona. She was also an active worker for the Canadian Bible Society.



Mary (Purser) McNiece died October 19, 1995 at South Muskoka Memorial Hospital. She was organist and choir director of **Knox Church, Gravenhurst**, a career she began at the age of 16 in Wallaceburg-Knox Church.

Mary was very active in Mission Band, Explorers, CGIT, junior and senior choirs and at all levels of the WMS.

She had a keen ecumenical sense and was invited by many churches in the Gravenhurst area to play for weddings and funerals.

Since 1969 she had a small musical group which played in nursing and senior citizens' homes throughout the area.

Mary was named citizen of the year in 1984 in Gravenhurst for her outstanding contribution to the community.

Mary is survived by daughters, Elizabeth Hein, Cobden; Kathryn Adams, Toronto; Jane Merkly, Bracebridge, and five grandchildren.

*- Audrey Webster, President of the Athalie Read WMS, right, presenting an Honorary Membership to Marjory Crawford, **St. Giles, Calgary, Alberta.***

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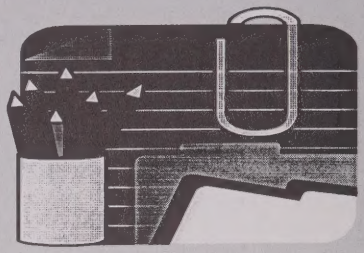

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Katherine Allen,
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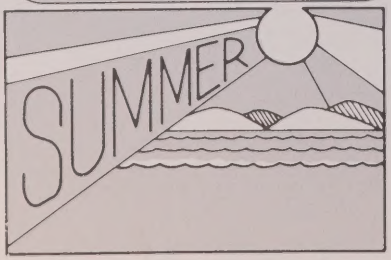
Reminder: When sending in a name for the *In Remembrance* column, please give the name of the Church and how you would like the name listed i.e. Mrs., Miss, etc. We usually like to have the person's first name. It is also helpful to send in the name directly to the *Glad Tidings* office as soon as possible after the person's passing. This prevents the notice from being too outdated. Notices for "In Remembrance" are the responsibility of the Local Group Secretary.



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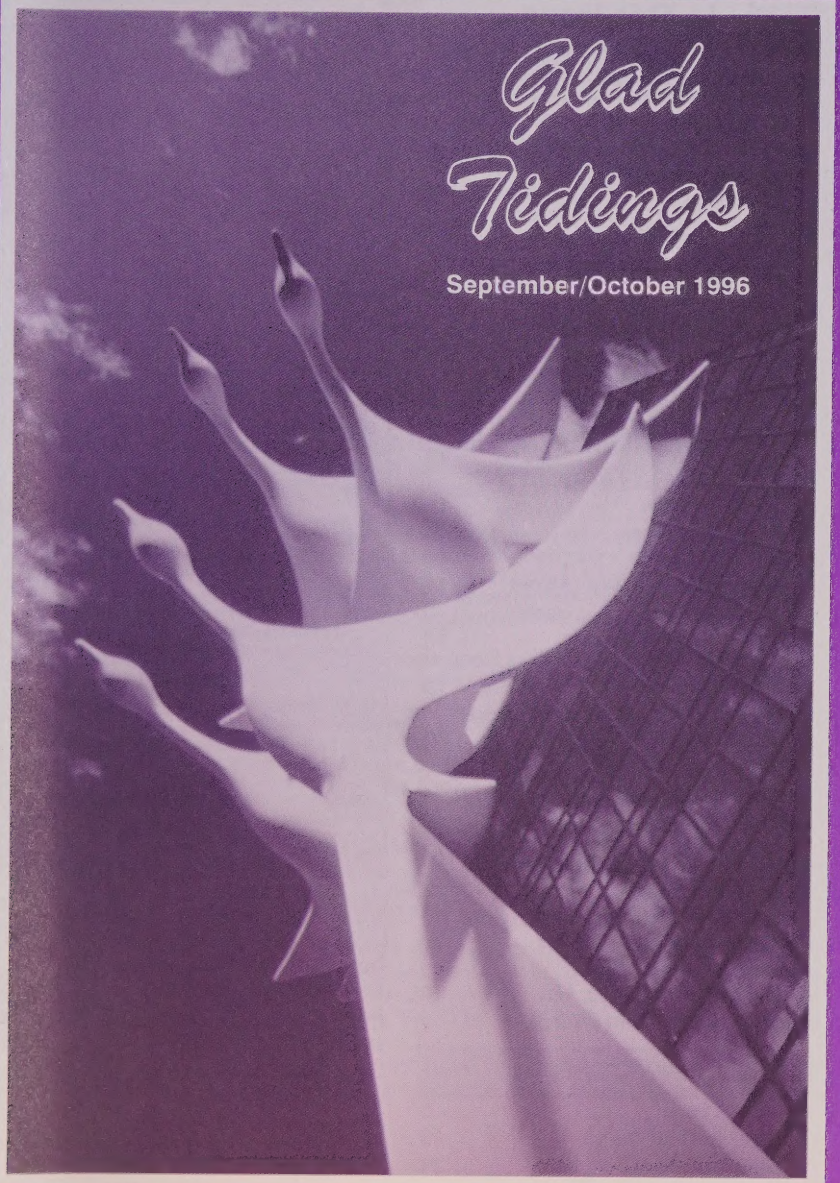

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September/October 1996

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Glad Tidings

Sept./Oct. 1996 Volume 72 No.5

L. JUNE STEVENSON
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GLAD TIDINGS challenges concerned Christians to reflect on their faith through articles and reports related to mission and social justice issues, locally, nationally and internationally.

GLAD TIDINGS through its content, encourages readers to become informed, educated, inspired and motivated to action.

GLAD TIDINGS provides a forum for a broad spectrum of opinion and information, thus the views expressed in features, news reports, letters and book reviews are not necessarily endorsed by the WMS (WD) or by the Editor.

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Cover Photo: Taken in Regina by Phil Nicholls

Western Respite...

In June I spent three weeks in British Columbia. I was there to take a writing course at Vancouver School of Theology. The first week I stayed with my brother, Bill who lives in Langley with his border collie, Rob Roy. While Bill and I caught up on our lives, Rob Roy waited patiently for someone to throw a ball or a Frisbee his way.

Since Rob Roy has no flock of sheep to herd, he devotes his attention to a collection of balls and Frisbees. He knows where each is located and can fetch any one of them, even if you request one of a specific color.

Bill and I had much to talk about. He was married in May in St. Petersburg, Russia, and is busy making all the arrangements for his new wife, Marina and her daughter, Olga to emigrate to Canada, and perhaps later, her son, Oleg.

Later that week, I took a bus to Summerland and spoke at a women's luncheon. Edna and Merrill Reside have established a very exciting ministry in the lower town there.

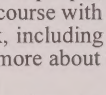
On two Sundays I did a "moment for mission": at St. Aidan's, New Westminster and at Kerrisdale, Vancouver. I attended a coffee hour at Fairview for Georgina Caldwell on her way home from receiving a doctorate in Taiwan. I also spoke to a group at Gordon Church, Burnaby.

There, I was presented with a special "June" edition of the *Glad Tidings*, written and prepared by Zena Mackay, including, to my surprise, an editorial called "Journeying" by Miss Kitty. It is reproduced here for your enjoyment.

> Well, here I am sitting on the desk, waiting for the day when June will finally get back home. My whiskers still twitch with indignation when I think of her going all the way to Vancouver, leaving me here to take care of things. I know she is spending time in the classroom, but I am quite capable of taking care of myself. I could have filled in the time with cat-naps, pussy-footing around the college, and testing the quality of B.C. salmon.
>
> June spoke in the January/February issue about journeying—I should have been warned. I don't actually mind other people having a chance to meet her, but I am sure they would have been pleased to meet me too.
>
> A little bird told me about the gathering at Gordon Church—that's the meeting place for seagulls and pigeons—I should love to be among them.
>
> I am sure June will return refreshed by her studies, happy to have seen old friends, and delighted to have made new ones. I shall try to make sure she has plenty of quiet time with me before she has to get back to work.
>
> I am, of course, happy to be able to live with such a lovely person.
>
> Written in Love,
> Miss Kitty

My time in B.C. was very special and I met many wonderful people, and saw many new places. I returned to Toronto renewed and refreshed. My course with award winning author Madeleine l'Engle - some of you will know her work, including "A Wrinkle in Time" - gave me new inspiration to write. You'll be hearing more about this in the next issue.

Meanwhile, I hope you all had summers of rest and recreation. As the fall season begins there is much to look forward to in our groups and in our churches. Blessings on the journey.



Thanksgiving Day

by Gwyneth Bell

It had been a tough year. Buying a turkey and "all the trimmings" for Thanksgiving dinner was out of the question. My husband Jim had been ill and off work. My hours had been cut, and our budget was stretched to the limit. We had barely made our last mortgage payment. Outfitting the children for the new school year had been a challenge, accompanied by much whining and demanding.

"But Mom, I must have those jeans and these sneakers - those horrid things are just NOT cool," claimed Jenny, a tall and lanky twelve-year-old. The refrain was taken up by her sister Kim, in Grade 2. I felt overwhelmed. Jim and I talked it over.

We had a family conference and explained the situation to the girls. Then Jim made a suggestion. "For a change, why don't we go to the park for a picnic?" The idea caught on, and we started to gather things needed for the next day.

"I'll bring a box of wood for a good fire," called Jim from the basement. "I'll find the wiener sticks," added Kim. "Where's the picnic bag?" asked Jenny. Enthusiasm was growing.

Thanksgiving Day dawned with a clear bright sky. We piled ourselves and all our gear into the old station wagon and drove out to Elk Island Park. Just inside the gates we slowed down.

"Look in those trees!" Jenny cried.

To our right, coming directly towards us was a herd of bison, led by a very large male. We stopped and in silence watched as they crossed in front of us. To our dismay some moved behind us, and we held our breath, as one nudge would have severely dented our car. They slowly lumbered across the narrow road. Their mammoth size dwarfed us, yet they were remarkably agile.

"Awesome," whispered Jenny. "I thought we were going to be squished," squeaked Kim as we drove on.

The Fall colours were brilliant: shades of gold, bronze and crimson surrounded us. Aspens were luminous against the deep blue sky. We arrived at the lake and found a good picnic spot.

"Let's go and see the beaver house first," pleaded Kim, her eyes sparkling. Along the lakeside the crisp leaves crunched under our feet, disturbing several black and white ducks.

"Goldeyes still here," said Jim. Overhead the honking geese were in formation flying south. We passed three beaver houses in good repair and watched squirrels busily preparing their winter pantries. They noisily scolded us for stopping to watch them.

The gentle lapping of the waves and the sighing of the wind were soothing to me. I felt renewed and comforted by the beauty around us. When we returned, the girls helped Jim to make the fire and soon the smell of roasting wieners mingled with the wood smoke as we contentedly munched our hot dogs.

Kim suddenly broke the silence, saying thoughtfully, "You know, we're not poor at all, we're RICH!" - and grinned at us all. Giving her a hug, I was too choked up to speak for a moment. "Right on," I said at last, "we are indeed rich." Then, somewhat off-key, but with full hearts, we sang "Praise God, from whom all blessings flow."

- Gwyneth Bell is from Edmonton, Alberta. She has had work previously published in the Anglican Messenger and The Kidney Foundation Newsletter.

One Precious Day

I may never see tomorrow,
There's no written guarantee,
And things that happened yesterday
Belong to history.
I cannot predict the future,
And I cannot change the past,
I have just the present moment,
I must treat it as my last.

I must use this moment wisely
For it soon will pass away,
And be lost to me forever
As a part of yesterday.
I must exercise compassion,
Help the fallen to their feet,
Be a friend unto the friendless,
Make an empty life complete.

I must make this moment precious,
For it will not come again,
And I can never be content
With things that might have been.
Kind words I fail to say this day
May ever be unsaid,
For I know not how short may be
The path that lies ahead.

The unkind things I do today
May never be undone,
And friendships that I fail to win
May nevermore be won.
I may not have another chance
On bended knee to pray,
And thank my God with humble heart
For giving me this day.

I may never see tomorrow,
But this moment is my own.
It's mine to use or cast aside,
The choice is mine alone.
I have just this precious moment
In the sunlight of today,
Where the dawning of tomorrow
Meets the dusk of yesterday.

Author Unknown

– Reprinted from *The Orbiter*, Red Deer Presbyterial, November 1995

Mission Accomplished!

by Gerry Hogan

- House under construction.

On March 4, 1996, at 7:30 a.m. ten of us met at Mirabel Airport, Montreal. We called ourselves "The Nicaraguan Youth Mission Team." Our purpose was "to develop a better understanding of the differences between first and third world countries while working together alongside our fellow Christian Nicaraguans." This we accomplished.

Fellow team members were Marcia Harten (leader), Alison Walford, Graham Walford, Rebecca Cuff, John Kay, all from Parkwood Presbyterian Church, Ottawa, Jenna Spence and Suzanne Mcdonald, Grace Presbyterian Church, Orleans, Moira Watson, Anglican Church, Fitzroy Harbour, Ontario and Johnathan Brown, United Church, Russell, Ontario.

Our plane was three and a half hours late in take off which I found annoying and somewhat tiring. I was soon to find out that everything in Nicaragua has a time of its own, a difficult concept for Canadians.

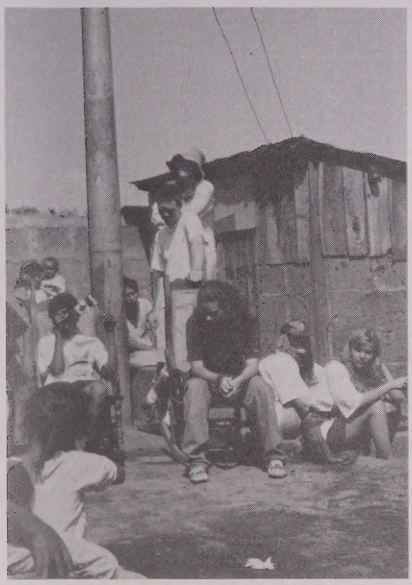
We arrived safely and were met by a great team of guys from UPOLI, a Polytechnical University, our host John Duff and several from his department of Theology and Pastoral Care. We were taken through the streets of Managua to our accommodation. My first observation was that this city was extremely poor, dirty, and very hot. Our hostel was very basic.

We occupied a Casa which held 11 people, three bedrooms with bunk beds, a bathroom and a sitting room. There was no air-conditioning, just small fans that shifted around the hot air. We were surrounded by a high fence that had locked gates and was supervised by a guard 24 hours a day, far from the secure feeling of Canada. However this was to become our home and we adjusted well to the routine at Provadenic.

The couple who managed the place, Carlos and Miriam, were helpful. Miriam made excellent meals. The food was different and there was always a good variety: rice and beans with every meal. I can remember having eggs and bacon for breakfast, accompanied by rice and beans. Salads were scarce. The fruit juices were all homemade and delicious. Nicaragua is heavy into "gasiosis" (pop). It is served a great deal. We also enjoyed bottled water.

We were introduced to Barrio Jorge Dimitrov on our first full day. We met the barrio community association and also the family for whom we were going to build the house. If I thought downtown Managua was poor it was nothing compared with this barrio.

The houses, some held together with cardboard and string, seldom had a living area, just wall to wall beds. It was not unusual for a house to hold 15 people, all in one room. Our new friends looked at us, as we did them, with much apprehension. It was amazing to see how the looks of mistrust and apprehension were replaced by



- On a work break. Top left to right: Moira Watson, Jonathan Brown, Jenna Spence, Alison Walford, and Suzanne McDonald with people from the barrio.

ones of trust and friendship over the next two weeks.

We were woken at 6:15 a.m. the next morning, as we were every morning, by John Duff who was always up before everyone else. His morning call was "Buenos Dias Companeros" (Good Morning Companions). We arrived at the barrio every day at 7:30 a.m. to start our morning work.

We had two work sites: the home that we were to build and the local medical building that we were to paint both inside and outside. We destroyed the original home in about one hour. It practically fell apart with very little effort. As we pulled the walls down there were many cockroaches and two scorpions to deal with, all a new experience to us.

We made steady progress on both projects: the medical centre, which was to be painted in a bold turquoise and the family home, where the ground was levelled, measurements made, concrete blocks moved into place and concrete made. Steel reinforcing rods were assembled so that the house was earthquake proof. All the assembly was by hand. The concrete construction was to go half way up the house. The top half to be constructed of wood and the roof was made of corrugated zinc (laminos).

During the two weeks of work, our youth dealt with many different situations. On many occasions the Nicaraguan builder would ask for young men to do a job, only to find that he was given one of our young women. To the Nicaraguans building a house is "men's" work. Our young women rose to the challenge many times to show that they were as capable as any man.

Often a local person would appear at the work site with a sick or disabled child, looking for financial help. We must have appeared to people in the barrio to be rich.

Our barrio family of 13 was headed by Juana, a very strong woman of 47 years who looked to be in her late sixties. Her daughter Maria was the only other adult in the house that was also occupied by 11 children. It is quite normal for there to be no male figure.

As the days went by strong friendships were made between the barrio family, their friends that came to help build, and the Canadian youth. It was amazing how much Spanish we either learned or just understood. Our work day was 7:30 a.m. to noon. Some enthusiasts did go back and put in an afternoon of work, but for most of us it was too hot. After completing the house there was a celebration. A bus was rented and all of us drove to a local recreation centre where we played ball, swam and enjoyed an afternoon together.

We encountered many situations of great interest during our Nicaraguan visit. Most afternoons were taken up by visits to local places of interest. The state schools in Nicaragua are large enough to house about 50% of the children at a cost of five cordobas a month, (approximately $1.00

Cdn). Every exam taken also costs five cordobas. A national school uniform consisting of a white shirt and navy blue trousers or skirt is mandatory. Most families cannot afford these.

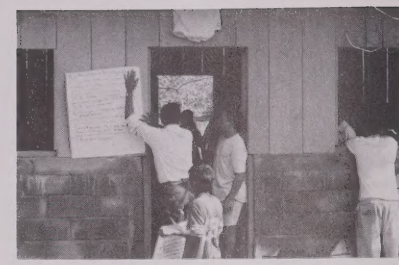
Many children are sent out to work full time as early as age five. They are often employed selling on the street. They will babysit your car or jump onto the hood to clean your windows in the hope of receiving a few coins. The city dump was full of children picking up garbage that could be resold.

Organizations such as The Baptist Church, The Mennonite Church and the YMCA have initiated some programs for the children unable to attend regular schooling when they are not working. These programs may also include a meal, as many of these children arrive malnourished.

Our weekends were spent visiting beaches at La Boquita and San Juan Del Sur, both beautiful. Good surfing was enjoyed by all. We visited the Masaya Volcano which is still active, the red lava eye clearly visible, the area totally unfenced. I had nightmares of losing Rebecca over the top – Rebecca always busy with her camera, and always overly anxious to get the best shot.

We enjoyed an evening with the young folk from the Atlantic coast who were part of a mostly English speaking congregation of the First Baptist Church. We taught them our two Spanish songs and they joined with us to sing at their Sunday service. We enjoyed another Sunday evening service of worship at Batahola Norte which has an extraordinary youth choir and orchestra. The entire congregation were asked to pray for the Canadian visitors.

We were joined evenings by different speakers who led devotionals. They also educated us on the revolution and uprisings of the 1980s and the tremendous earthquake of 1972. Our visit to the town of Cevimn, near Nicaragua, was a day to remember. We visited a life centre for women and children and were able to speak



- The finished house!

to them through an interpreter. They were proud to share their lives and afterwards we all enjoyed a game of ball together. We spent an evening at the national theatre where we were treated to an evening of Nicaraguan folklore music. We were joined for six days by Ray and Leda Thompson from Parkwood, Ottawa who worked with us. They now reside in Costa Rica.

March 18 arrived too soon. Some people were up all night. There were so many mixed feelings of returning home, yet leaving our new found friends. The dedication service for our newly finished house, aptly named by the youth, Casa Por La Esperanza, "House Built With Hope." Many sad farewells from Barrio Jorge Dimitrov and many promises that we would be back.

I do believe that this trip was far more than building a house, It brought hope to a village of people who had known few kindnesses. I believe they felt that these young Canadians had shown great caring and compassion built most of all friendship giving them a true feeling of worth. For the young Canadians this was a wonderful learning experience and one that will be with them always. It will influence their lives as they, in turn, influence the lives of others.

- Gerry Hogan has been a member of Parkwood Presbyterian Church, Ottawa since 1982. She is involved with the pastoral care team and sings in the choir. Gerry works at Central Park Lodge, a retirement home, teaches CPR and advanced cardiac care, and is a cashier at Loblaw's. She has a son, Nick, 19, a daughter, Maureen, 18, and a dog Trixie who goes everywhere with her.

Too Busy

"I'm just too busy, Lord,
to read your Word today."
I shuffled through the Bible,
then put the Book away.

"I'm just too busy, Lord,
to take the time to pray."
I'm sure God will forgive me.
I'm just too rushed today.

"I'm just too busy, Lord
to help that friend in need."
I hear God's inner prompting,
but I've no time to heed.

"I'm just too busy, Lord,
to stop and worship You."
Today's the day I'm planning
for me, some things to do.

I had a dream one night.
I knocked on heaven's door.
An angry angel answered:
"What are you knocking for?"

"God's far too busy now.
God has no time for you.
On earth you were too busy.
So now, God's busy, too."

God turned away from me.
I stood there all alone.
I felt such utter blackness,
the likes I've never known.

When I awoke next morning,
I knelt beside my bed:
"From now on, make me busy
for You, my Lord, instead."

Helen Dowd

In spite of "clipped wings" the author shares the many blessings she is able to enjoy.

Clipped Wings

by Elizabeth Payne

So – my wings are clipped!

Last summer I was in hospital several times, rushed to emergency 100 miles away, and finally put on oxygen which I have to be on every night and parts of the day. I was so hoping that all I needed was a pacemaker, and I would be as good as new – almost.... After many tests and consultations, the heart specialist said I wasn't a candidate for one, my condition was different.

I remember the morning my doctor told me that my heart was very weak, but no pacemaker. I sat over my breakfast tray, tears streaming down my face. I had so counted on that apparatus – some friends had had the procedure and they were much stronger.

Also, to add to my depression, I had just received word of the passing of a dear friend and, of course, I would not be able to be near the family in their grief. Then too, we were to have gone to a grandson's wedding that day in Regina, and we had looked forward to that for a year. It was to have been our holiday; we would take a few more days and leisurely travel north to unknown lakes and then home via northern Alberta. I had even found the dress I would wear.

So there I was, as weak and despondent as I ever hope to be. I propped up the little blue card that had arrived on my tray, and read the words over and over:

"Be still and know that I am God... Let not your heart be troubled.... neither let it be afraid... I will not leave you comfortless, I will come to you... Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you."

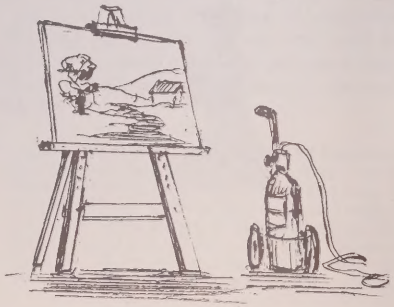
I finally went home, too weak to do scarcely anything. Soon I was put on oxygen. The standing machine with yards of pipe leading from it enables me to move around in a limited fashion. Then there is the mobile one on wheels that goes with me whenever I go out. My considerate husband carefully carries it into the car and takes it in where I am going, in case I need it. It even goes to church – sits by me as I play the organ!

I go out very little now, partly because we are having a miserable winter, and partly because I am unable to. Arthritis is a distressing companion most days, so I have cancelled several activities, invitations, and so on.

However, I keep counting the many blessings I have every day.

On my 'good' days, I feel privileged to be able to resume my painting which has given me so much pleasure over the years – be it water colors, which I keep upstairs, or oils for when I can go down to my studio for an hour or so. The watercolors I simply arrange on the kitchen table and puddle away to my heart's content.

I am so thankful that I can also type with my pipeline close at hand. Many days, of course, I can do nothing but rest, but I am happy that I can enjoy reading.



We have an abundance of good books and magazines to delve into. I can sit quietly in my big chair, plugged into my lifeline, and with my cat in my lap, look at lush garden magazines and make plans.

Last week I was eager to plant something. Now I have marigolds, nicotinas and nasturtiums, emerging, the latter planted in a brown hanging pot. So far, of course, this is all "indoor" gardening, but I am enjoying it immensely.

I must include the wonderful friendship of tried and true friends; the sharing of each other's lives – even if it is over the phone, or stormy outside. We can encourage, laugh, grieve and pray with each other in time of sorrow, and occasionally visit, accompanied by our canes and other paraphernalia.

Then, there is music. I couldn't live without it, and my hours are enriched by the many tapes and records we have.

I feel blessed over and over as I listen and sometimes join in with the choirs, etc.

Of course, I take too much for granted the love and care I receive from my husband. We plan on celebrating our 56th wedding anniversary this summer! I know many of our family, which keeps enlarging, will be with us, either in spirit or in contact. One more wee great granddaughter joined the family recently – another blessing.

Yes, my wings have been clipped but not my spirit! Thank you, God, for your many blessings.

New Life

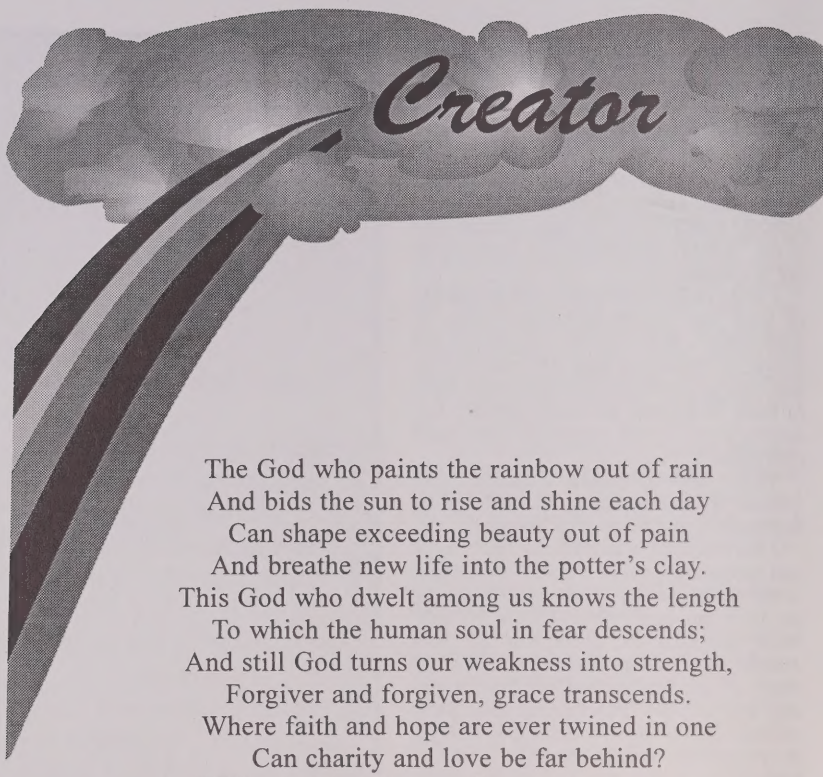
Each time new life unfolds
I stand in awe,
unable to grasp
the reason of all coming,
maturing and dying.

A tiny seed in the cosmos
yet unique -
a single entity
among the multitude -
designed to follow rules
embedded in its psyche.

Once called forth
by divine wisdom,
it will exist
for all eternity,
engraved in the annals
of the universe.

Maria Stam

- See biographical information on Maria Stam in the July/August 1996 Glad Tidings, page 5.



The God who paints the rainbow out of rain
And bids the sun to rise and shine each day
Can shape exceeding beauty out of pain
And breathe new life into the potter's clay.
This God who dwelt among us knows the length
To which the human soul in fear descends;
And still God turns our weakness into strength,
Forgiver and forgiven, grace transcends.
Where faith and hope are ever twined in one
Can charity and love be far behind?
While God in Christ walks yet the earth upon
Demanding human love of body, mind
And soul, in God's own time we yet shall be
Reformed, reborn, transformed, redeemed and free.

L. June Stevenson

This sonnet was written as an assignment for a writing course at VST, July 1996.

Sunshine & Crooked Letters

by Joanne Flath

Five years ago, while visiting my sister in Chicago, I attended her church. We slipped into the back pew, my teenage niece, Kristine, beside me. During the organ prelude, I looked around the unfamiliar sanctuary.

The chancel area was as big as a theatre's stage. In the centre stood a marble altar. The fieldstone brick wall behind the altar framed two stained glass windows that provided light to an otherwise cold interior. One window, in purple and blue shades, showed Christ praying in the Garden of Gethsemane. The other, in purple, red and green tones, depicted Christ ascending the mountain top.

The choir loft was at a right angle to the congregation. Opposite the choir, in startling contrast to everything else, hung a six-by-ten-foot banner. It was on a wall in front, in full view of the congregation.

"Who made that?" I whispered to Kristine.

She winced. "I admit I traced the letters but some old ladies cut them out."

At the top of the banner, large black felt letters spelled "HAPPINESS IS." The "H" leaned toward the "A"; the "A" stood stiff, far from the "P" and the second "P" was touching the "I". A fall mountain scene filled the centre of the banner. Purple felt mountains bordered by evergreens straggled across the burlap.

Clusters of trees fashioned from birch bark, with autumn leaves tacked onto branches, were interspersed among the mountains. A gingham sun blazed yellow from behind the mountain. Near the bottom of the scene, blue strands of wool stitched a rippling brook. Crooked letters staggered across the bottom. They read "Seeing God's Sunrise!" "Happiness is seeing God's sunrise!" Surprising theology for such an austere sanctuary.

The choir processed up the aisle singing, "Beautiful Savior, King of Creation," but my eyes slipped back to the banner. A man stepped up to the lectern and read, "From where does my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth." But my mind still lingered over the banner. Even during the sermon, my attention continually strayed from the preacher's words to the banner.

Fractured colors from the stained glass windows fell across the burlap, blending with the letters that had touched my heart in spite of their incongruity.

After the service I said, "I have to see that banner up close."

My sister said, "I'm going to check on coffee hour. Kristine, will you go with her?"

"Mom, I'm so embarrassed by that banner," Kristine answered.

As people filed out the centre, Kristine and I walked to the front from a side aisle. As we stood examining the banner, three elderly women approached us.

"Hello, Kristine." They all seemed to speak at once.

A slender woman in a red dress held her hand out to me. "I'm Helga Johnson."

"And I'm Suzanna Pembrook," said an elegant woman wearing a black suit.

A third woman, balancing herself with her cane, placed a cold hand on mine. She smiled. "I'm Henrietta Brown."

Kristine said, "Ladies, this is my Aunt Joanne."

"We all knew that. The resemblance is remarkable," said Suzanna. "We came to greet you. We saw you looking at the banner."

"It's unforgettable," I stammered.

"Thank you. We made it," she said. They all beamed.

"I've never seen anything like it," I said.

"You likely never will again either," said Henrietta, chuckling.

Helga broke in. "It didn't turn out the way we planned."

"That's what's so remarkable about it," I said.

Henrietta leaned against a front pew and held out both her hands showing knuckles swollen and fingers bent. "Our hands just wouldn't do what they should."

"Gluing the letters on that burlap was terrible," Helga sighed.

Suzanna laughed. "When the banner was done we felt like tossing the whole thing in the garbage!"

"I'm glad you didn't" I said.

"Pastor John saved it. He came into our workroom, took the banner, and hung it more than a year ago."

"He said it reminded him of the way God's love shines on our human imperfections," said Helga.

"That's why I was so drawn to it," I said.

Henrietta sighed, "Four families left our church because of that banner." Her lips trembled. "They said only perfect things are worthy of God."

Kristine said, "Pastor John told me those crooked letters were like the fingers that made them."

I murmured, "Didn't the apostle Paul say that we all write a living letter to God?"

Kristine smiled. "I'm beginning to like this banner more all the time."

"It grows on you," I said. "It's true, you know. Happiness is seeing God's sunrise!"

"Even when it falls on our imperfect patchwork!" Henrietta marvelled.

Kristine tells me people come and go at that big church. Many are drawn to the banner, some take offense, and some catch a deeper meaning. And the light continues to shine on those crooked letters!

– Joanne Flath is a freelance writer living in St. Albert, Alberta. She has had articles published in a number of religious publications. Joanne was born in Minnesota and moved to Canada upon marriage to her Canadian husband. Sunshine and Crooked Letters was previously printed in Esprit, May/June 1995.

Four People Named Body

Retold by Art White

This is a story about four people surnamed Body:

Ever Body,

Sam Body,

Annie Body,

Snow Body.

There was an important job to be done and Ever Body was asked to do it. Ever Body was sure Sam Body would do it. Annie Body could have done it but Snow Body did it.

Sam Body got angry about that because it was Ever Body's job. Ever Body thought Annie Body could have done it; Snow Body realized that Ever Body wouldn't do it.

It ended up **everybody** blamed **somebody** when actually **nobody** asked **anybody**. So, Little Red Hen, how can we avoid situations like this in the future?

Soul Captain

I stand on the deck while the great ship
Slices through the fog as it were
A knife going through butter.
I stand with the fog enshrouding me
And I am afraid to utter
My fears, as in the eerie distance
I hear the eldritch sound of a fog horn
Warning of danger near the shoals.
We are close to the land, I think, yet I feel
Cold and alone, the fog's tendrils
Encircling me.

Fog - deep, deep impenetrable,
Yet the ship churns steadily onward.
It knows where it is going –
Guided by the hands of the captain on the wheel.
His charts will tell him where are
The shoals and the sharp-edged rocks.
Why am I afraid? Is it because my own
Life is enshrouded in fog? I know not
Which direction to take.
The ship knows because the Captain has
His hand on the wheel.

I too have a Captain –
Whose hand steers the wheel of my fate.
Yet am I afraid to trust him!
He knows where the shoals and sharp-edged
Rocks of my life are hidden.
O Lord, you are my Captain,
You have the compass of my life.
So be it, Lord – guide me, my Captain
As the Captain guides this ship as it slices
Through the fog like a knife slicing through butter.

Kay Berry

- Kay Berry is a freelance writer from Vancouver, British Columbia. She has been published in Glad Tidings before especially her poetry and the "I"-Witness column.

A THANKSGIVING TURKEY

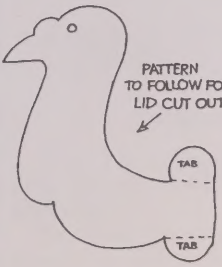
GET READY

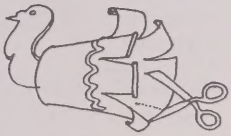
Sturdy paper or styrofoam milk shake-size glass with plastic lid (Buy a milk shake at McDonalds or Baskin-Robbins and drink it to get one!)
scissors
2 pipe cleaners
tempera paints (mixed with detergent)
paper punch

GET SET

1. Trace the head pattern from this page on the plastic lid and cut it out.

2. Cut a slit in the center of the bottom of the glass. Fold in the points at the bottom of the turkey neck and insert in the slit; then open the points to hold the head in place.





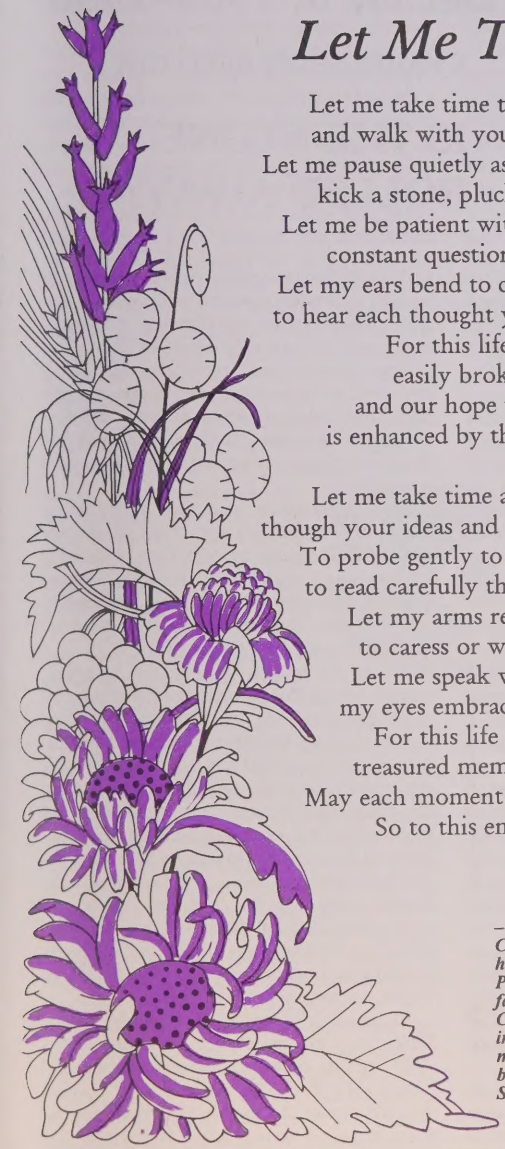
3 Cut three-inch deep slits at even spaces in the top of the glass and bend the pieces back to form feathers. Cut off the bottom two feathers.

4. Make two holes in the bottom of the turkey. Twist two pipe cleaners together to make one long one. Poke the ends through the holes from the inside to make feet. Bend the pipe cleaners to make two three-toed feet.

GO

Paint your turkey and enjoy him as your Thanksgiving centerpiece or individual favor. (Smaller turkeys for individual favors can be made in the same way by using small paper cups.)

Source: The Big Book of Bible Crafts and Projects by Joy Mackenzie ZondervanPublishingHouse, 1982), available at your local bookstore or by calling 800-727-3480



Let Me Take Time...

Let me take time to hold your tiny fingers
and walk with you slowly down the road.
Let me pause quietly as you stop to gaze in wonder
kick a stone, pluck a leaf or mock a bird.
Let me be patient with your ceaseless chatter or
constant questions as you seek to learn.
Let my ears bend to catch your slightest whisper
to hear each thought your little heart has formed.
For this life of ours is fragile
easily broken or destroyed,
and our hope to achieve its fulness
is enhanced by the things that we share.

Let me take time as you grow a little older
though your ideas and dreams may not match mine,
To probe gently to grasp your inner feelings,
to read carefully the words you never voice.
Let my arms reach out in friendship
to caress or wipe away your tears.
Let me speak words of comfort and
my eyes embrace each smile you give.
For this life is ours only briefly
treasured memories all that remain.
May each moment we spend be worthwhile.
So to this end let me take time.

Lorraine Sargeant

– Lorraine is a member of the Alberta Christian Writers' Fellowship and shares her poetry at monthly meetings of the Ponoka Word Weavers. She and her family attend St. Mary's Anglican Church, Ponoka. Let Me Take Time was inspired by a walk with Lorraine's 20-month-old grandson just four days before the massacre of children in Scotland.

Reflecting on the Decade of 1988–1998

A PARTICIPANT REFLECTS . . .

IS THE STONE ROLLED AWAY?

"It is good to be in 'The Cooling Spot' before we begin our discussions" commented Grace Eneme from Cameroon as she began to share her journey within the ecumenical movement with those of us who had gathered together at John Knox Centre in Geneva.

'The Cooling Spot' was the metaphor that captured the image of the space that was created by the Women's Programme, (of the Justice Peace Creation Unit III), for a group of 21 women, who have been a part of the ecumenical movement, to come together to "explore what the end of the Ecumenical Decade can mean to the churches, particularly in the context of the VIII Assembly" of the WCC. It was also the time for reflecting on the gap that lies between analysis, volumes of writings, resolutions, forums, seminars and the continuing and escalating violence faced by women who continue to live under violence in all its manifestations.

As we shared our many and varied journeys that shaped us into being the women we are today, we also named and honoured the many women and some men whose lives continue to empower us and help keep our vision alive. Many named grandmothers and mothers who as women of their times found ways to survive at the same time releasing us, their daughters, into increasingly new spaces and new journeys for our time.

Some spoke of other mothers who held them and nurtured them when the visions grew blurred. Others spoke of renewed visions that birthed when we continue to make connections with each other.

Many spoke of individual men who were willing to share space with them and walk with them in mutuality. The struggle for men to understand and accept the visible solidarity of women within the ecumenical movement and within the life of the churches was recognised as an issue that had significance for all of us.

However we agreed overwhelmingly that it was good to be together, to struggle through unfinished issues together, to name the new challenges for today, but above all to celebrate the vision of ecumenism that continues to hold us together.

As we reflected on the impact of the Decade and its implications, we agreed that the Decade was the right step at the right time, and that it has become a catalyst for bringing women together at a global level as we continue to challenge our churches. At the same time we confronted many hard questions.

Would the issues of economic injustice, racism, xenophobia, the participation of women in leadership roles in the church and the rising tide of violence against women have been addressed, if women had not raised these issues? Are the increasing strategies for the polarization of women against each other, symptomatic of the fear of losing power within patriarchal structures? In their urgency to address the issues that affect women at all levels, did women take the Decade away from the churches? Honest and open questions were placed before us by those who had a long her-story within the movement, as well as by those who are becoming the voices for the continuation of the journey.

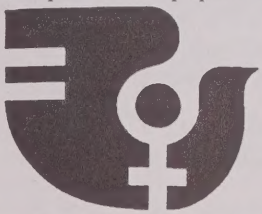
At the early stages of the Decade, Mercy Oduyoye, who was then on the staff of the WCC, wrote a theological reflection titled "Who Will Roll The Stone Away?" which became one of the significant motifs for the Decade programme. I asked Mercy who was

a participant at the meeting, if the stone is being rolled away.

Her response was: "The imagery has not worked for the Decade of churches in solidarity with women. We find the stone of fear of human sexuality still in place. We find the stone of men's power over women in place. We find the stone of violence against women firmly in place. We find the stone of misogynist theology still in place."

A programme such as the Decade covers a wide expanse of issues and in this case, many countries with a vast range of church doctrines and practices. To measure the fruits of the Decade is therefore no easy task. Yet, it is a task that is being carried out by teams of Mid-Decade visits to the churches . . . a composite picture is beginning to emerge, according to a reflection by Nicole Fischer, the WCC staff member in charge of the Mid-Decade visits.

While much of the feedback received confirmed the presence of the different stones identified by Mercy Oduyoye, there is also a positive feeling that, in many cases, for the first time the issues of the Decade were tabled and placed before the churches in ways that made it difficult for church leaders to ignore them.



The Decade became the catalyst for bringing women together at a global level while it created a platform for the voices of women, although these voices could not always penetrate the fortress of church structures. Reflections on the impact of the Decade within the working life of the WCC as an institution were shared by members of the Staff Advisory Group on Women's Concerns. Once again there seemed to be many stones still in place within the organisational life of the WCC, which is also to receive a visit from a monitoring team. However, as within the life of the member churches, cracks are beginning to appear in some of the stones that keep solidarity with women firmly anchored to the culture of patriarchy.

The need to articulate from a theological perspective, the concept of solidarity emerged as a motif during our three days of discussion. Solidarity as a way of life touched every aspect of human relations and therefore could not be categorised under a universal concept of "we". It needs to be re-defined in the light of the incredible diversity that emerges when the implications of being "in solidarity with" is set in terms of ideological, cultural and personal perspectives.

However, when oppressive and life-destructive issues and situations emerge, they become the focal points for building solidarity. At such moments it becomes possible to experience the "we" concept as "a part of the value systems of life that leads me to affirm that I am because we are", stated Brigalia Bam, General Secretary of the South Africa Council of Churches.

Many stories were told of the rise in sexual harassment as a strong component of the psyche of violence against women. The insecurity and "terror" of most men who would intellectualise sexual harassment rather than acknowledge its existence was a concern that was taken seriously.

"When the Church turns inward on itself and denies the realities of society, then its healing as a prophetic voice is silenced" commented Leonie Liveris from the Greek Orthodox Church in Australia.

To break the silence of the church, a dialogue between women and men on the theology of patriarchy and sexism as a sin that continues to entrench dominance, power and the ownership of women's bodies by men, was endorsed as an urgent need. It was hoped that the WCC would be ready to declare boldly that violence against women is against the will of God.

Marga Buhrig, a foremother in the participation of women in the ecumenical movement articulated her dream for this phase of the journey as the hope "that men will start talking to each other and listen to what women are telling them".

As the Decade moves into preparations for bringing together many issues to the WCC VIII Assembly in Harare, there is both a sense of celebration and hope, as well as the recognition of the pain that rises from dreams and expectations that have not been given form and substance within the life of the churches. There is celebration as we recall the lives and visions of many women of the past who paved the way for

(Cont'd on pg. 27)

Forward in Faith

This is the time of the year that the goals for 1997 are set. As a Society, Council approved our estimates of $1,112,000 for 1997. This year Synodicals will now set their own goals in consultation with the Presbyterials. This will enable the membership to have a part in establishing goals.

Speaking of goals, each of us needs to establish goals personally. I review my own goals each year. At one time, I only gave contributions on the months I went to a meeting. Then I set my goals to include every month of the year. I have a toonie on my desk. If every member gave a toonie per week as a minimum contribution, the Society would receive nearly a million dollars. May the Lord guide you as you set your goals. It is with your support that mission outreach and education take place. Thank you for that support.

Total receipts January-June: $296,539. This is 26.5% of the estimates ($1,117,300) for 1996.

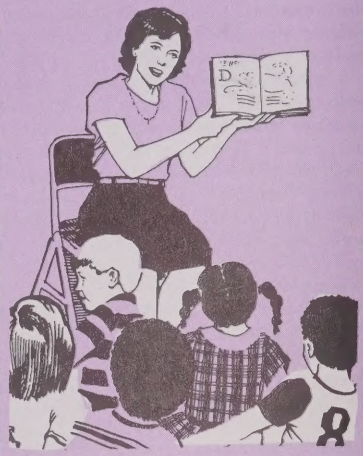
Irene Nesbitt, Treasurer

And only the Master shall praise us, and only the Master shall blame; And no one shall work for money, and no one shall work for fame, But each, for the joy of the working, and each, in his separate star, Shall draw the Thing as he sees It for the God of Things as They are!

- Rudyard Kipling, The Seven Seas (1896) 'When Earth's Last Picture is Painted.' The Oxford Dictionary of Modern Quotations. Edited by Tony Augarde.

Prayer for a Sunday School Teacher

by Gladys Nolan



Lord, help me to guide and teach these bright young students. Help me to love them when they don't understand. Give me an insight into their feelings. Don't let me expect them to know what it has taken me years to learn. Let me learn from these alert young minds, lessons I'll not forget, for they have much to teach me. Help me to give them wisdom and courage to handle daily problems. Let me teach them your way, compassion, forgiveness and love.

Lord, be with us as we gather together to enrich our minds from your Holy Book. Amen.

– Gladys Nolan is a charter member of the Canadian Author's Association. See more detailed biography page 19, July/August 1996.

God Cares

When disaster strikes or we feel abandoned and lonely, it is very easy to think that God seems to be absent when especially needed. It may be you or I who have moved away from God. Suffering from the hard knocks of life seems to be just another part of living.

Yet the lesson Jesus taught us about being like little children in relation to God as a loving and caring parent still is emblazoned within His teachings. Jesus Himself was utterly dependent on, and in daily communion with, God. Not only were His personal needs looked after, but the needs of others who sought His help. Of course, the trials and tribulations of life had to be faced. Yet Jesus, except in that moment of extreme agony on the cross (Mark 15:34), showed what it actually means to be one with God, as He carried out God's plan. Christ listened; He heard; and He was obedient even unto death for our redemption.

As we strive daily to surrender our lives and our desires, to serve God, we enter into a very special relationship with God. We learn that our Lord really cares for us, and this caring will become more apparent as we praise and glorify the Creator, ever seeking, ever listening, and striving to be obedient to God's call.

How do we know God cares? One way relates to being warned not to do something. This comes through such phenomena as the hearing of an inner voice, the sensing that there is danger ahead, or even the sensing of something evil. But do we listen?

Today was a busy day, and we were to transport our older daughter to the airport where she was catching a flight to London. At 4:00 p.m., my wife and I set out to pick her up. As we left home, I said, "You know, I am really not looking forward to having to drive on Highway 401 with all that heavy afternoon traffic."

Her response was, "Why don't we take an alternate route to a point where we can get beyond the bumper-to-bumper traffic?" That sounded like good advice, so we did. Even so, traffic was heavy and slow, but we had lots of time. Almost five kilometers from home traffic stopped up, and I applied my brakes.

Suddenly the brake system failed. We found ourselves sailing into the car ahead, unable to avoid hitting it. Fortunately car bumpers were the same height and they absorbed the impact. No apparent damage was done to either car, and none of us was hurt. Our daughter had to proceed to the airport by taxi, while we had the car towed to our local garage.

As we waited for the tow truck, feeling a bit upset, it dawned on us what the terrible consequences of brake-failure on the highway could have been, with its lanes of heavy, fast moving traffic. We might have been seriously injured or even killed. Was not our Lord's loving care and concern for our well-being once again revealed to us?

God is our protector and we know that we owe our lives to God, even when things don't turn out so well. The need to listen to our Lord and depend on God in all areas of life was thus reinforced. Hallelujah!

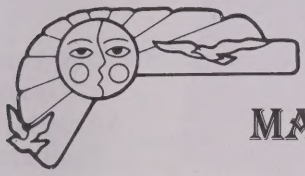
Edward P. Mason

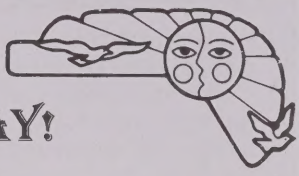
Ecclesiastes 3 (NRSV)

by Jim Phillips

R K A K U T N A L P K I K I L L
S E W T H R O W A W A Y U D J A
W E F H F V H B O R N T D V Q E
I P J R L B Y P U D L I U B L H
Y S T O A U Q L P U K C U L P E
T I R W U I F X K K C A W O Y M
G L B A G L N K E E P Q E F U Z
E E A W H D A E J W M O U R N K
E N H A L U S B M L M N A X B H
L C Z Y O P V E M B R A C E N R
I E S D V D B O E P R G C S P T
G E C A E P E E W Q H A T E I B
S M T N R N C F N I R A C D S G
P C E K A E P S H P U D L I U B
B U A M W D Z J O X L O S E N O
C R R E H T E G O T R E H T A G

BORN
BREAKDOWN
BUILDUP (3x)
DANCE
DIE
EMBRACE
EMBRACING
GATHERTOGETHER
HATE
HEAL
KEEP
KEEPSILENCE
KILL
LAUGH
LOSE
LOVE
MOURN
PEACE
PLANT
PLUCKUP
REFRAIN
SEEK
SEW
TEAR
THROWAWAY (2x)
WAR
WEEP





MAKE MY DAY!

A Bible Study on Cultural Diversity

by Margaret Greig
Program Secretary

This Bible Study would be appropriate to use either with your study *First We Must Listen: Living a Multicultural Society*, or on its own. You may choose to have someone read the scripture and someone else summarize or read the commentary and then discuss the questions at the end. It would be best if each member could read the study ahead of time in preparation for the meeting and come prepared to discuss the questions.

PHILIPPIANS 2:1-5 (NRSV)

(1) If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, (2) make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. (3) Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. (4) Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. (5) Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus.

It is clear in this letter, that Paul is addressing a problem in the church in Philippi. He encourages them to be of the *same mind, having the same love*. So there must have been disagreements and perhaps some anger. There was also selfishness and conceit, for Paul directs them *to regard others better than yourselves, in humility*. By looking at what Paul writes in his letter, we find out what was happening in the church. He could have written this letter to most of our Christian churches.

As Christians, in our own humanness, we repeatedly forget to center our lives on Christ. We become independent instead of being inter-dependent.

In our churches we 'do our own thing' in our own familiar group and surroundings. We choose not to reach out to those outside of our circle - making excuses for why they wouldn't want to be involved. We become independent. We feel assured that our way is the right way and fall into Paul's categories of *selfish ambition and conceit*.

But recently we have begun to realize that our society has changed. Christianity is no longer the dominant religion.We notice that the Lord's Prayer and Christmas carols are not to be used exclusively in our Public Schools because there are many faith groups represented in the classrooms. Sunday shopping, once forbidden, is now common to most metropolitan areas.

Society has become very pluralistic. We are no longer a European church, but

As Christians, in our own humanness, we repeatedly forget to center our lives on Christ. We become independent instead of being inter-dependent.

Do we share our faith stories with people of other faiths and from other cultural backgrounds? And, do we welcome opportunities to hear their stories?

embrace people from around the world. In the past, our missionaries went across Canada and into many countries to spread the gospel, and now people of many countries and many faiths have come here. In some cases, other countries are sending missionaries to Canada. Do we share our faith with these people? Do we listen to their faith stories?

In your community do you have the opportunity to listen to Canadian aboriginal people and learn how their faith is expressed in their worship and in their lives? Remember, aboriginal people were here long before the first Europeans came.

Pause and Discuss

1. What nationalities/cultures make up your neighborhood?
2. How and where do you interact with these people?

We need to find new ways of ministry - a ministry of mutuality. Paul can give us the clues. He says, *make my joy complete, be of the same mind, having the same love...in Jesus Christ.* Today he would say 'make my day!' He is saying this and more. He truly wants people to work together in Jesus Christ.

Pause and Discuss

1. What does Paul mean when he refers to the *same mind and love in Jesus Christ*?
2. How can you be of the *same mind and same love in Jesus Christ* with all people, including those of other faiths?

"Making Your Group Attractive" Pamphlet

Looking for information to help you encourage and attract new members to WMS?

A pamphlet has been prepared, based on Valerie Dunn's article in the March/April 1996 Glad Tidings and following Action # 56 from the five year plan, *Threatened With Resurrection*, to answer this need.

Copies have been sent to Council Executive (which includes Presbyterial Presidents), and with the mailing of the Annual Report book.

You may request a copy from these people or the WMS Book Room.

Please feel free to photocopy and distribute liberally.

We trust that this material will be a welcome addition, as you encourage new members to become involved in the life and ministry of your Christian community.

SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICES

Services for Anniversaries and a Celebration Service for closure of a group are available free of charge from the WMS Book Room.

Other services for special celebrations will be prepared in future. If you have written a service, or heard one used, you are encouraged to send these to the Program Secretary, WMS office.

Did you know that worship and bible study materials from Council 1995 were sent out last year and are available from the WMS office?

A THANKSGIVING SERVICE OF WORSHIP

by Jackie Keatings

Note to leaders - Preparing for Worship: There are three alternative ways suggested for using this service. Read through the service, especially this section **"Preparing..."** Then read the section following the **"Reading"** below and before the **"Prayer."**

For any of the alternatives, have a table set up at the front of the worship space, or in the centre if sitting in a circle, with two candles and some dried pine or cedar needles, and perhaps some pine cones and other items from nature.

You may wish to add an incense burner to the table, particularly if your service is to be held outside or in a well ventilated room. Do not use without determining first if there are people in your group with allergies who would be bothered by this. This is alternative **(1)**.

If you decide to use the basic worship setting **(2)** you will need a small basket, preferably of aboriginal weaving, pencils and small pieces of paper for participants. The basket, pencils and papers will be used during the "Prayer."

If you decide to use the third alternative **(3)** you will need enough tapers for the number of participants. These tapers will be used during the "Prayer."

When you are ready to begin the service, the leader, or another participant should go forward and light the candles.

Call to Worship:

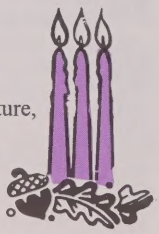
Leader: O come, let us sing to the Lord:
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

Response: Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to God with songs of praise!

Leader: O come, let us worship and bow down,
let us kneel before the Lord our maker!

Response: For he is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture,
and the sheep of his hand.

Leader: O that today you would hearken to God's voice!*



Hymn: # 569 (Book of Praise) Joyful, joyful we adore Thee

Reading: Luke 17:11-19 - "Jesus Cleanses Ten Lepers"
(May be used as a dramatic reading)

Leader: Today as part of our worship service we want to intentionally remember to thank God for all the blessings in our lives. Each of you, as you feel ready, are invited to participate. **(Leader uses the numbered section below depending on which alternative they have chosen prior to the meeting.)**

program...program...program...program...program...program...program...

(1) (Leader lights the incense as a base for burning of cedar needles during prayers.) Each of you, as you feel ready, are invited to come forward and place some of the cedar shavings on top of the incense and then offer your prayer of thanksgiving to God. As the cedar burns you are to direct the smoke, with your hands, in an upward motion, symbolizing the offering of your prayers to God.

(2) During the prayer, at a time indicated, you are invited to take your pencil and paper and write something for which you are particularly thankful. Then fold your prayer and it will be collected in a special basket during the offering.

(3) Each of you, as you feel ready, are invited to come forward and light your taper from one of the candles on the table. Then offer your prayer of thanksgiving to God through the smoke that rises upwards from the candle. (Leader may wish people to remain in their places. In this case, the leader might invite someone in the first row to come up, light their taper and then return to their seat. That person would light her neighbor's taper, and so on.)

Prayer: Bounteous God, you have offered us the fullness of life in Christ; you have invited us to the feast of rejoicing. We are thankful that you seek us out on the roadways of life, before we even ask. Clothe us in righteousness so that we may be worthy guests at your table.** Hear us now we pray, as we offer to you, thanks for the many blessings of our lives. (The leader then introduces whichever symbolism she is using,.)

(1) The leader places some cedar shavings on the incense and says, "Thank you God for...(naming some blessing). After directing the smoke upwards, the leader invites others to come forward to offer their prayer in a similar fashion, as they wish. OR

(2) You are invited to write down something for which you are particularly thankful.OR

(3) You are invited to light your taper and offer your prayer of thanksgiving to God in the smoke that rises from the flame.

Conclude with the words,

"In Jesus name we offer to you our prayers of thanksgiving. Amen."

Offering:

Leader: We remember today, and thank God for the blessings of our lives. As we present our offerings, let us dedicate anew our labors, our time, and our commitment to God, who calls us into discipleship and who surrounds us and sustains us with Everlasting Love in Jesus Christ.

Litany of Dedication over the gifts:

Leader: The Creator of all life and love has endowed our earth with bountiful blessings.

People: God has created humanity to share in the wonder and joy of these blessings.

Leader: All thanks be to God, Giver and Receiver of all that is good.
People: We return to God portions of what God has given us: Our time, the fruits of our labors, our commitment.
Leader: May the giving from the fullness of our lives be acceptable in God's sight.
People: May the gifts we bring extend God's kingdom here on earth.
All: Praise God from whom all blessings flow.***

Hymn: #571 (Book of Praise) We praise Thee, O God

Closing Prayer/Benediction: As we rise from our worship with spirits full of praise and thanksgiving we pray that the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit will be with us now and evermore. Amen.

**Psalm 95:1, 2, 6 & 7*
***Reprinted by permission of United Church Press from Bread for the Journey, ed. Ruth C. Duck. 1981, Pilgrim Press. P.64, #21.*
****Ibid, adapted from p. 72.*

- Jackie Keatings is Youth Consultant for the Toronto-Kingston Synod/Synodical. She has been with the synod in youth ministry for almost five years. Jackie has a Bachelor of Theology in Christian Education and Youth Ministry.

IS THE STONE ROLLED AWAY?
(Cont'd from page 19)

women to claim their voice and their identity within the ecumenical movement. There is hope in the vision of justice, peace and the integrity of creation as it continues to undergird the ongoing work of the Decade. There is a sense of excitement in possibilities for naming new models for living that will affirm a community of women and men that includes all people.

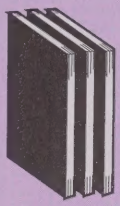
There is pain as we face the reality that the process of dialogue between women and men on matters that are crucial to the transformation of society are still far from being realised. The difference between the life-statements of women and the power-statements of men continue to separate us. The possibility for a process that includes repentance as the first step to commitment and covenanting is still a distant vision.

Nevertheless, we realize that the initial focus of the community of women and men and the present focus of a Decade for the Churches in Solidarity with Women are milestones along the journey to claiming full humanity for all people. Perhaps the next stage of the journey "should focus on issues of Partnership and Power", says Brigalia Bam. "A new theological debate and reflection has to be initiated involving people from disciplines such as anthropology and sociology that will build on the experiences of the Decade."

We leave this place knowing that the cracks appearing in the stones are real and that women and men must work together to roll away the stone that holds us all within the tomb of Patriarchy. Women have made most of this journey by themselves. We celebrate the presence of some men who have begun the walk with us. We will keep alive the vision that the ultimate goal is not the sharing of power, but the transformation of all life as the evidence of God's presence in all of creation.

Ranjini Rebera is a Consultant in Communication and Gender . . . a Sri Lankan-Australian, now living in the USA.

Reprinted from Together With Energy, World Council of Churches, Programme Unit III, The Ecumenical Decade of the Churches in Solidarity with Women 1988-1998.



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Encounters With Jesus: The Gospel According to Matthew *by Sara Covin Juengst; Nancy Scott: Suggestions for Leaders. Published by Horizons, Presbyterian Women, Presbyterian Church (USA). 1996. Price $6.00.*

In previewing the 1996-97 bible study the first thing to discover is the challenge of the writer to have participants read through the entire Gospel According to Matthew at one sitting. When this task is completed you are invited to read through the study guide *Encounters With Jesus*. What wisdom!, for it calls the reader first to formulate her/his own understanding of who Jesus is and what he expects from us in faith and obedience. The text of the study along with the leader's suggestions will then serve to both widen and deepen our understanding of the purpose of Matthew's writing.

Step by step the nine sessions give the student an opportunity to encounter Jesus through his family, his baptism, teaching ministry and resurrection. The student(s) will also discover ways both friends and outsiders encountered Jesus and how Jesus, himself, encountered temptation and opposition.

Participants are challenged to read through the Gospel According to Matthew at one sitting.

Lest all of these encounters seem irrelevant to this modern age, at the end of each study session and in the suggestions for leaders, there are thought-provoking questions which call for a present day response in our own lives.

Sara Juengst does not isolate Matthew's description of peoples' encounters with Jesus but connects them with both Old and New Testament scripture that we might better understand Jesus as Messiah and the way He interprets the idea of righteousness.

Finally the study invites the student "to discover what it means to live out faith, not law; to consecrate our lives to Christ, not just to observe the formalities of being Christian."

Canadian Presbyterians might want to duplicate pages 126-127 of the Book of Common Worship and Living Faith 7.6 page 20 when using session two, *Encountering Jesus Through His Baptism and Testing.*

A class using this bible study will find it more helpful if each person has a copy of *Encounters With Jesus* so that the chapter to be studied might be read in preparation for the class session. The *Suggestions for Leaders* is an excellent source for all group leaders and should give courage to those who lead for the first time.

Have fun! May your understanding of what Jesus expects from you in faith and obedience be enriched as you are confronted with the Gospel According to Matthew and the insights given in the study *Encounters With Jesus*.

Norma Goldsmith

Driving Lessons - Christian Meditations about Life from the Not-So-Fast Lane *by Sharon Elwell. Published by Meriweather Publishing Ltd. Price $16.50.*

Short pithy reflections on lessons to be acted upon not only from behind the wheel of a car, but in everyday life. Written in a light style, each illustration reminds us of situations in which we have encountered frustrations while driving. How did we handle the situation? Did we remain calm and courteous?

Each lesson on the road may be applied to the frustrations we experience in life. Every chapter begins with a cartoon and ends with a Scripture quotation appropriate to the message.

Helen Young

A VARIETY OF RESOURCES FROM THE BOOK ROOM

G4441 - Let's Celebrate! Canada's Special Days by Caroline Parry. Kids Can Press. Canadians of many backgrounds celebrate more than 250 special days every year. Religious and ethnic holidays, birthdays of countries or persons or a special event, are all included. You'll find games, riddles, craft ideas, poems as well as descriptions and historical facts. This may be a helpful resource for our study theme: Living in a Multicultural Society. $16.95

G5849 - Autumn Wisdom, Finding Meaning in Life's Later Years by James E. Miller. Augsburg. Words of wisdom from the Bible, poetry and literature with colour photos from nature. Here are affirming suggestions for finding renewal and purpose in life. $14.95

G3941 - Border Crossing, A Spiritual Journey by Katie Funk Wiebe. Herald Press. A reviewer says of this book "Wiebe frankly reveals the doubts and fears of her own life stages and comes through with moving biblical and faith-building insights." $15.75

G5865 - Why Didn't I Just Raise Radishes? Finding God in the Everyday by Melodie M. Davis. Herald Press. "These are the everyday events of our lives - a daughter having to wear flowered tennis shoes to a fancy banquet, scrubbing the toilet bowl at church, watching a spider catch flies in a web. Through these everyday (even lowly) tasks and experiences, we can see God - if we're looking." - from the author's introduction. $11.35

Y2199 - Hey World, Here I Am! by Jean Little. Kids Can Press. A funny and poignant collection of poems, observations and vignettes about life, friendship, family, identity and love. Those aged 9-15 will particularly enjoy this book. $4.95

C0341 - Come to the Desert With Me
C0342 - Come to the Ocean With Me
C0343 - Come to the Island With Me
C0344 - Come to the Mountain With Me Discovery Books Series by Mary Carpenter Reid, illustrated by June Goldsborough. Augsburg. These four books for children describe the rich beauty of God's creation and encourage an appreciation of this precious gift.
$6.75 each

IN MEMORIAM

Hilda Frances Zychowka

Mrs. **Hilda Frances Zychowka** (nee Blackwell) passed away on May 18th in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan.

Hilda was born in Weyburn, Saskatchewan on August 10, 1915. Her entire life was spent in service to the Presbyterian Church, the Women's Missionary Society and to other people.

With a background of business training, she owned and operated the Weyburn School of Commerce for several years.

She graduated from The Presbyterian Missionary and Deaconess Training School in 1948. Her first assignments were in port work in Montreal and Halifax with the Women's Missionary Society. This was a very important missionary work of the Church, during periods of heavy immigration. Hilda's friendly face and efficient assistance helped thousands of weary, confused people during a difficult period in their lives.

In the February 1985 "Glad Tidings", Hilda wrote an article entitled "A Port Worker Remembers." Looking back over her experiences in port work, Hilda felt that Jesus' story in Matthew 25: 31-46, "When did we see you..." was fulfilled literally in her work, many, many times.

She furthered her education in Virginia, USA where she trained for work with children and young people. Her work with the WMS took her to several communities in Alberta and then to Prince Albert, and surrounding communities and reserves.

In 1967 she married Peter Zychowka, who predeceased her in 1995. Wherever she lived, Hilda contributed her expertise and dedication in all aspects of church and community. She will be sadly missed and fondly remembered by her family and many friends.

- Thanks to Jean H. Cockburn, Historian, Prince Albert Presbyterial, for the above.

- Hilda, as port worker for the WMS in Montreal, Quebec.

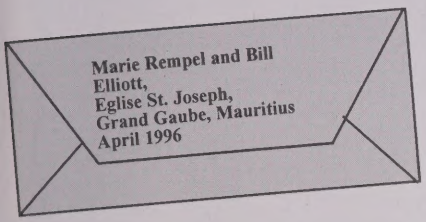
Mae Gillatly

Mae Gillatly (nee Fraser) of Wyoming, Ontario, died on May 1, 1996 in her 80th year. Mae was predeceased by husband David (Mac) Gillatly (1957) and Roy Gillatly (1976). She leaves her son Ron and Vanita Gillatly of Camlachie, and a number of grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Mae was active for many in the WMS and was a member of Council Executive.

The funeral service was held at St. Andrew's Church, Wyoming with Rev. Jeremy Ashton officiating.

Dear Friends



"Lord Jesus, why come on in and stay at our house!
Because through your words you've given us life itself!
And then come and sit down with us at our table,
And our bread and our hearts will be blessed!"

Imagine you are here with us in Grand Gaube on the sixteenth of June. A big tarpaulin has been set up in the yard of the church. A large crowd is watching intently as two disciples from Emmaus invite Jesus into their home. The choir begins to sing, and the words of the song come alive.

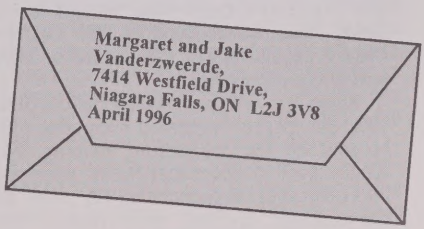
Here, I've given you a glimpse of one of the scenes of the musical play we are preparing. It is about the last part of Jesus' ministry, his death and resurrection as recounted in Luke's gospel. Bill and three members of the choir, Edmond, Norma and Giovanni have written the songs for the play. I am singing with the choir and taking a role in the play. Already the joy and enthusiasm generated by this project are evident.

It's hard work; we have increased our choir practice to twice a week; the musicians arrive before the singers to work on the accompaniment. But we are having fun. I've seldom seen Bill so happy. The tunes are so catchy and the rhythms so engaging that we hardly notice the time flying by.

Some of the songs are written in "séga" style, the traditional Mauritian music. Others are set to traditional African and Afro-American spiritual tunes. All lyrics are in Creole, which makes them immediately understandable to our Creole speaking friends and neighbours. Because we had already begun learning these songs during Lent, our appreciation of the Holy Week and Easter stories has been deepened. Last Sunday we listened to the story of the road to Emmaus during worship; tonight the same story took on even fuller meaning as choir members learned the song which retells it in their own language (the refrain is quoted above).

As these new songs bring the ministry of Jesus closer to the people we work with, we hope that his message is at work in all our lives.

Love,
Marie & Bill



Today, April 15, 1996, has been another important day in the life of all who work or study at the Margaret Leask Memorial School here in Jhansi. Today, the school entered the computer age.

In anticipation of today's event, I spent time reading School Society minutes and Mission reports covering the last 40 years. It refreshed my memory, again, to the work of Russell Self, Angus McKay, Eleanor Knott, Mary Whale, Margaret Leask, E. Maggie Magee and Diana Wadsworth. The latter arrived in India October 10, 1959 and is the last remaining PCC missionary working at Jhansi.

It is noteworthy to realize that it was only 15 years ago, in July 1981, that the first classes were held in the English Medium School, offering Kindergarten and first class to 45 students, all but four of whom were day scholars (as opposed to children living in the hostel). At that time

- Front row left to right: Jake and Margaret Vanderzweerde, Diana Wadsworth, Mrs. Singh, Principal of H.M.M. Standing in the back row are the teachers and the computer company team.

the hope was expressed that the building program would be successful and, sure enough, by Christmas 1983 Kindergarten and first and second class moved to the newly constructed building. By October 1984 a second storey was added to what was already completed.

When Rev. Angus McKay died in June 1983 his family requested memorial gifts be sent for the new school building. The Angus McKay Memorial Room was built and dedicated on September 19, 1985. By the summer of 1986 more rooms were added and by 1987 the "L" shaped building, with which so many Canadian Presbyterians are familiar, was completed.

The reputation of the school is such that soon afterwards it was realized that additions were required if students weren't to be turned away continually. In 1992 plans were laid for a new addition and special funds were set aside. Construction started late in 1992. My husband, Jake, went to India, alone, early in 1993 and stayed until the end of April of that year, lending his support and supervisory capacity. Progress was slow and it wasn't until early 1994 that the building neared completion.

By that time Jake and I were back in Jhansi, India and on March 10, 1994 I was requested to officiate at the opening and official inauguration of the English Medium School which was to bear Margaret Leask's name. The bulk of the funds for this new seven room addition had come from the family and friends of Margaret Leask, as well as her home congregation at Uxbridge, Ontario.

Today it was an honour to cut the ribbon to the computer room and push the button to start the equipment which is taking the school into a new era. Although I felt Diana should have done the honours, when the company that installed the equipment had already printed the invitation I agreed, knowing that I would have an opportunity to say some things that Diana, herself, was not likely to say, because they would be about her.

The school not only stands at the thresh old of a new era with this modern technology, but, with Diana's resignation, the school stands also at the threshold of the post missionary era. It was my intent to take those present back into history for a look at what has made this school the prestigious educational institution that it is. It wasn't only the vision of those who took leadership at the school in the past, neither was it hard work and selfless giving alone, nor the dedication of those who went before, but all of those things were necessary together with prayer and love. Love for Christ, in Whose Name this was started and on whose blessings all things depended. I hope and pray that those present were also able to "see" and catch the vision.

For the Margaret Leask School there are great opportunities to be a tremendous witness in the community as well as the opportunity to be supportive of the Helen Macdonald Memorial School for girls.

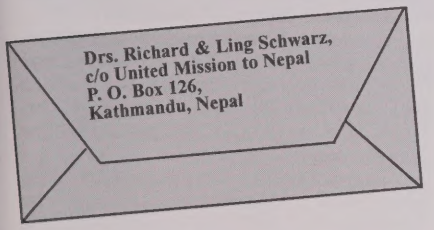
Diana and the school committee have selected a principal for the English School and have made a recommendation naming a manager for both schools.

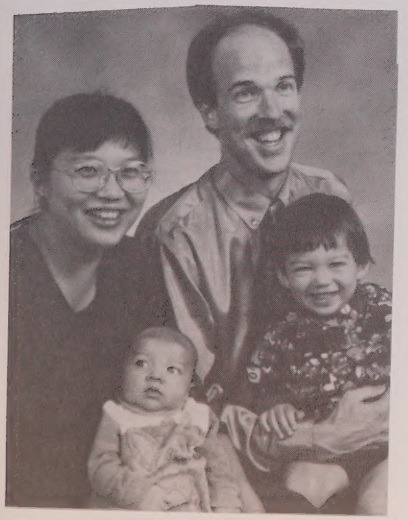
We pray that the Diocesan Board of Education of the Church of North India, will approve the selections and appoint these people so that Diana can return to Canada, assured that qualified people are keeping the light house.

Please pray for the future of the school, for the school society, for the Diocesan Board, for Diana and all the staff and students at both the Helen Macdonald Memorial and Margaret Leask schools.

In His Love and Service,
Margaret

WMS Educational Focus 1996: Nepal
Medical Partners off to Nepal





- Ling and Richard Scharwz and family.

Drs. Ling and Richard Schwarz are so committed to mission that in 1991 they spent their honeymoon touring Pakistan, Nepal, Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand to investigate where God was leading them. They concluded that God wanted them to work with Nepalis, whom Ling describes as being "gentle and beautiful in inter-personal relationships." Nepal, she says, is "like an ethereal kingdom, with the mountains floating in the clouds."

Ling was born in Singapore and committed her life to Christ at nine, after being raised a Buddhist. (Ling came to Canada at age 16.) She says Christianity has given her a great sense of freedom and of grace that contrasts with Buddhism's stress on earning your way by merit. "This is what I so want to share with others."

The Hinduism she saw in Nepal seemed to her to have the oppressive qualities she had experienced in Buddhism. But she also found that the Nepali Christians knew spiritual freedom and could "live beautifully," even in the midst of poverty and a harsh environment.

Richard was born into a Christian home in London, Ontario, but he says he lived "an egocentric" life in his late teens. Then just before he went to medical school, he accepted Christ as his Lord. With this, he gave God his career: "I could not separate my spiritual life and my professional life." He qualified as a general surgeon with special interest in head and neck surgery.

After their honeymoon, when they felt

a strong call to serve in Nepal, Richard and Ling returned to Canada, and spent three and a half years in Duncan, B.C., gaining more experience in a practice which Ling said they were "sad to leave". They also expanded their family: their sons are Jonathan Sheng-en (3) and Daniel Sheng-Yi (1 year). In September, 1995 they left to serve in Patan Hospital, Kathmandu, with the United Mission to Nepal as a joint appointment of InterServe Canada which recruits Christian professionals for service overseas. InterServe missionaries pledge themselves to raise their own support; International Ministries is committed to contribute $15,000 in 1996 to enable the Schwarzes to serve in Nepal, and hopes to continue this level of support in 1997 and 1998.

Richard is well experienced in sharing his faith, having run an evangelistic Bible Study for seekers and worked with international students in an outreach group. As preparation for service overseas, he studied at Regent College in Vancouver, where Ling also audited courses. At Regent, he gained insight into how Christians confuse their theology with their culture. He learned more about distinguishing between what is Christian and what is Western, so as to avoid distorting the Gospel with a wrong emphasis on Western culture.

The United Mission to Nepal (UMN) has assigned him to the 200-bed Patan Hospital, which is run jointly by the government and the UMN. Expatriates and Nepalis make up the medical staff, something that pleases Richard, whose primary focus is evangelism in the workplace. He and Ling will also help with discipleship in a local church.

Within weeks of their arrival in Nepal in October, 1995 Richard was at work in the operating theatre. He reports that the hospital was "desperate for surgeons" even though he needed the assistance of an interpreter. He and Ling were to start language training in January 1996.

During his practice in British Columbia, Richard published several articles in medical journals. He hopes to continue to make contributions to research in international health if he can find time after days in the operating theatre and taking an active part in a local congregation.

Ling is a graduate doctor but she says that for a few years her main roles will be those of a support worker, mother and wife. The two children won't have the convenience of disposable diapers, and homemaking in Nepal is very labour-intensive. She has to shop every two or three days for food. The family is living on the upper floor of a two-storey stone house in the capital, Kathmandu.

She looks forward to developing relationships particularly around her passion for crafts. She may teach public health in the neighbourhood or do part-time general practice, as time and the demands of the family permit.

The Schwarzes are members of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Duncan, B.C. and worshipped at Calvin Presbyterian Church in Abbotsford, B.C. for several months just prior to their departure for Nepal.

(Adapted from an interview in *InterServe*, quarterly publication of InterServe, Canada. Winter 1995)

Overseas Staff

October

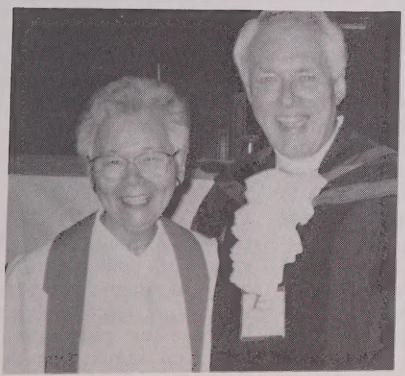
1 - Stewart Gillan, South Africa
1 - Dennis Single, Nigeria
13 - Bill Elliott, Mauritius
20 - Elizabeth Crosby, Mauritius
28 - Rachel Kent, Nepal

November

1 - Lorna Kent, Nepal
7 - Joe Reed, Central America
16 - Richard Schwarz, Nepal
21 - Jack Geddes, Taiwan

Former Executive Secretary for the Women's Missionary Society and now Moderator of the 122nd General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, Tamiko Corbett says,

Thank You!



- Tam, left, wearing gown that the WMS Council voted to contribute towards, with retiring moderator, Dr. Alan McPherson.

- Above, WMS Office staff say "farewell" to Tam with lunch and a gift.

The 122nd General Assembly was an incredible experience for me. If someone had told me a year ago that I would be moderating a gathering of 300 commissioners plus Young Adult Representatives I would not have believed it. But thanks to God and to all who supported me with prayer and good wishes, I had that privilege in Charlottetown June 6-12.

I wish to express a special thank you to all who contributed at the 1996 Council Meeting toward my gown and to many groups and individuals who sent congratulatory cards and letters.

I look forward to visiting across Canada and overseas in the coming months. My next assignment is a week long visit to Guatemala to convey our Church's caring to our Mayan brothers and sisters who have been facing increased intimidation these last few months.

In September I will join Rick Fee and Clare da Silva of PWS&D on a tour of Africa. In Canada my priorities are to affirm lay ministry and to invite those from non English speaking backgrounds into fuller participation in the Presbyterian Church in Canada. My aim is not necessarily to speak on Sundays but to meet with groups at their convenience.

Tamiko Corbett,
Moderator, 122nd General Assembly

NEWS

SOUTH AFRICA'S TRUTH COMMISSION BREAKS DOWN

East London, South Africa, 22 April (ENI) – A week after public hearings started to unearth the atrocities committed during South Africa's infamous apartheid era, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, chairman of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), Anglican, and other commission members, were offered counselling to help them cope with the harrowing accounts they heard.

The government-appointed TRC heard stories of about a thousand gross human rights violations perpetrated by the security forces and lackeys of the former apartheid regime as well as members for the liberation movements between March 1960 and December 1991.

In its first week, the TRC heard 33 cases. A witness, former Robben Island prisoner Mr. Singqokwana Malgas, bound to a wheelchair, gave a harrowing account of three decades of detention, harassment, etc. and police torture. His son died after acid was poured over him.

During one testimony, Archbishop Tutu dropped his head on his arms and wept openly after the witness himself broke down. The archbishop was unable to make the closing words, and his deputy quickly closed proceedings.

TRC spokesman Mr. Phila Ngqumba confirmed that Archbishop Tutu and other TRC staff would undergo counselling – possibly weekly – to help them cope with the accounts of unbelievably inhumane security police brutality during the anti-apartheid struggle, according to media reports.

The week-long first session of the TRC hearings was marked by a remarkable lack of bitterness. Witnesses only wanted to know the identities of those responsible for the abuses, and for the perpetrators to show remorse, observers said.

Mrs. Beth Savage, who suffered serious injuries by "a grinning, AK-47 wielding man in khaki uniform," told the TRC she would like to meet her attacker, to forgive him and to ask his forgiveness "for whatever I might have done".

"We want to forgive – but we don't know whom to forgive," whispered teenager Ms. Babalwa Mhlauli, whose activist father was murdered, presumably by security police.

The start of the hearings on 15 April in East London was marked by Archbishop Tutu, who lit a candle in remembrance of those who died or disappeared during the anti-apartheid struggle.

Commenting on the start of the hearings by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the South African Council of Churches said: "There is no doubt that the Commission offers an opportunity to lift up those who have been cast down, and also to name the nameless of our country's story of oppression. It brings a new dimension to the idea of social justice as the whole nation walks with each victim, and perpetrator, in this attempt to release us from the past and free us all for the future. Then and only then can we be a reconciled people." – Noel Bruyns

WCC VOWS TO SUPPORT YOUNG PEOPLE'S CAMPAIGN

Geneva, 23 May (ENI) – A group of young people, many of whom have been victims of forced labour, violence or prostitution, have won support from the World Council of Churches to establish a network linking youth organizations. The network will bring pressure to bear on governments and political leaders to ensure that children's rights are protected.

"Amongst ourselves, we are planning to set up a network among children of the world, and we want the World Council of Churches to help," Craig Kielburger, a 13-year-old activist from Canada, told journalists at a press conference at the Ecumenical Centre in Geneva 22 May.

"In this way, when one of the [children's] organizations reaches a deadlock, they can let the others know. It will shake up world leaders to receive letters from children around the world telling them to live up to the promises they made for children.

"Young people are beginning to realize that if they are going to do something, they have to do it themselves," said Kielburger, who is the founder of a group called Free the Children which promotes children's rights around the world and has branches in Canada, the United States, Brazil and Switzerland. Kielburger, whose organization is run by adolescents, said new branches were being set up around the world "like wildfire".

A WCC spokesman told ENI that the organization, which has 330 member churches, was prepared to support the establishment of a network linking children's organizations around the world.

Nine young people, aged between 13 and 19, from five continents attended the press conference after a three-day consultation organized by the WCC to promote children's rights and welfare. Some of the nine youths have been the victims of on-going violence, some have lived on the streets and worked as prostitutes, and some have been forced to work.

All the young people at the consultation are involved in organizations in their own countries which promote the welfare of children. Some of the organizations are managed by adults, some by young people.

The group also met representatives of UNICEF in Geneva. – Edmund Doogue

HOSTING CROSS-CANADA CYCLISTS

Canadian Bible Society, Toronto – Church basements across the land, including Presbyterian ones, will serve as welcoming way stations this September for a group of rugged cyclists, dedicated to a worthy cause.

Wheels Around the World (WATW), a fund-raising event of the United Bible Societies (UBS), will cover 4,400 kilometres of asphalt from Vancouver to Mississauga between August 28 and September 28.

About 65 WATW riders, backed up by their "roadies" support crew, aim to raise money towards literacy work undertaken worldwide through the New Reader Scripture program of the various Bible Societies. The Canadian Bible Society (CBS) is one of more than 120 Bible Societies belonging to the worldwide UBS fellowship.

Presbyterian churches are among more than 100 churches across Canada who will serve as overnight "pit-stop" hosts and lunch-break organizers on WATW's gruelling 31-day marathon.

"The more Bibles that are printed, published and distributed, (the better). It's a good cause for everybody," said Val Felesky, a local WATW coordinator and member with Riverside Presbyterian Church in Medicine Hat, Alberta.

NEWS FROM KNOX COLLEGE

The recent Knox College Newsletter reported the following items:

Marion Barclay will undertake the task of cataloguing The Resource Centre educational materials and co-ordinating the use of the Centre by congregations and students. Marion brings many years of diaconal experience to this work and is currently completing her MDiv. degree.

Grace Kim and **Dorcas Gordon** attended a meeting of the Pacific Asian-North American Women in Theology and Ministry at Episcopal Divinity School, Cambridge, Massachusetts in March.

Art Van Seters was teaching at the Native Ministry Summer School at Vancouver School of Theology in July.

A new **Ewart** Post-Graduate Scholarshiphas been established by combining a number of awards from Ewart College into a $5,000 post-graduate

scholarship. It can be awarded to a graduating Knox College student who is accepted into a program to specialize in Christian Education, Pastoral Care and Counselling, or Societal ministry.
Two Nigerian Scholars are to be in Residence for the fall term under the sponsorship of the E.H. Johnson Scholar-in-Re-sidence program: Historian **Ogbu Kalu** and educator **Wilhemina Kalu**, both of whom are professors at the University of Nigeria.

NEWS - MISSION STUDY THEMES

CHINA'S CHURCH IN TENSION

Geneva, 23 May (ENI) – China's Christian commu nity is growing at "breathtaking speed", but churches face a number of "hindrances" and "abuses", according to an international church delegation which has just completed an investigative visit to several provinces of the world's most populous country.

The 13-member team, which visited churches and met Chinese academics and government officials overseeing religious bodies, found what one of the team described as "surprising" tolerance of religion by some state officials. However, the team also found that there were tensions among the Christian community itself, that there were "some general restrictions" on religious practice, and that, in at least one province, state officials "blatantly" interfered in church activities.

The team visit to China, organized by the World Council of Churches, examined the implementation by Beijing of its 1994 decrees on religion.

Religion remains a sensitive issue in China, even 20 years after the end of the Cultural Revolution, during which religion was banned. The government allows Protestants to practise their faith, provided they do so as members of churches registered with and operating under the authority of local Religious Affairs Bureau (RAB) officials. A similar situation applies for Catholics.

China's main Protestant body is the China Christian Council, which operates both as a council and as a "post-denominational" church. (The CCC is a member church of the World Council of Churches.) The government frowns upon foreign church denominations and missionaries, and this attitude has prompted criticism, from evangelical groups and others who refuse to recognize the government's authority to regulate religious practices.

The WCC team reported that, according to official estimates, China has 10 million baptized Christians, "and their number is growing daily."

However, the team said in a "briefing" paper released 23 May that "there remains a dearth of qualified pastoral leadership [and] certain tensions exist between church leaders ordained before the Cultural Revolution, who are now in their 70s or older, and a new generation of clergy in their 20s and 30s."

The WCC team included experts and religious officials from around the world, among them Rhea Whitehead, United Church of Canada. – Edmund Doogue

WOMEN 'VITAL FACTOR' IN CHINESE CHURCH

Geneva, 24 May (ENI) – The contribution of women has been a "vital factor" to the growth of the Chinese church, which has increased ten-fold since 1949, when the communist People's Republic was founded, according to a study on women in the contemporary Chinese church, prepared for the Lutheran World Federation.

The report, which is intended as an interim contribution to the LWF's China Study Project, says women account for about 70% of Christians in the country. The report quotes figures from the China Christian Council, China'a most Protestant body, showing that the number of ordained compared to less

than a tenth in 1988.

There are 465 female students and 46 full-time female teachers at 13 theological seminaries in China, representing about half the total number of students and teachers in these institutions.

Chinese Christianity has also taken "a positive and pro-active stance with regard to the liberation of women", according to the study, which says that Christianity has promoted the "theory of gender equality."

By opposing foot-binding and prostitution, Christianity has "actively helped liberate women from oppression", and by establishing schools for girls and by training women for professional work, the church has helped raise the educational level of women.

However, women in the Chinese church "still face many limitations and difficulties". Although in some districts, women have been "fully accepted" as pastors and church leaders, in a number of villages "even ordained women pastors are not permitted to perform baptisms or celebrate Holy Communion". And in some big cities the "distribution of Holy Communion is the responsibility only of the men, while the women...do some of the preparatory work."

Women have few opportunities to participate in the formation of church policy and pastoral leadership, and there are "some congregational leaders who still think that it is not appropriate for women to preach from the pulpit."

Influenced by the women's liberation movement, "far-sighted church leaders" have brought into the church the results of current biblical scholarship on the equality of women and men, including "Western feminist theology", to counteract "traditional attitudes".

The first course in feminist theology at Nanjing Union Theological Seminary, which was held in 1993, drew the attention of many academics and students to the subject, and a Chinese feminist theologian, Kwok Pui-lan, has started "an exploration of feminist theology with Chinese characteristics."

"Before very long, the Chinese church will most likely be able to develop its own contextualized feminist theology to respond to traditional culture and traditions of the church in order to resolve the problems of women in the church and in society at large more effectively," the study reports.

The research team is based at the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Hong Kong, and coordinated by the LTS president, Lam Tak Ho. – Stephen Brown

Blunders of the world that lead to violence:

Wealth without work
Pleasure without conscience
Knowledge without character
Commerce without morality
Science without humanity
Worship without sacrifice
Politics without principle
Rights without responsibilities
Technology without direction
Connection without community
Teaching without joy
Learning without hope.

According to the Christian Science Monitor, Mahatma Gandhi shared these thoughts with his grandson.
- from *contact*, April-May 1996

IN THE SOCIETY

SYNODICAL

Toronto-Kingston Synodical was welcomed by Peterborough Presbyterial April 20-21, at St. Paul's, Port Hope, Ontario.The theme was *Sowing, Caring, Reaping*, with scripture from Galatians 6: 9-10.

President Jean Dancey welcomed everyone and Pickering Presbyterial conducted the opening worship on *Sowing*. Highlights of the first day included Bible Study on the theme, the book table, Focus on the Future - a current study, and wonderful hymn sings.

On the Saturday afternoon, an opportunity to explore historical Port Hope was appreciated. Prayer time was held in small groups prior to dinner. Grace was said by Rev. D. J. McBride of St. Paul's. Dinner was followed by musical entertainment by St. Paul's.

Special guests were Rev. Paul and Marybeth McLean, home from Taiwan. Closing worship on *Caring* was taken by Oak Ridges Presbyterial.

On Sunday morning the Synodical worshiped with St. Paul's.

The Synodical meeting included a brief memorial service for Jean McIntyre. The closing worship on *Reaping* was taken by Peterborough Presbyterial.

PRESBYTERIAL

Under the leadership of Lynda Reid the Presbyterial of **Waterloo-Wellington** met to consider "Threatened with Resurrection." "Strengths and weaknesses" were considered, then opportunities were explored. Balloons with "I will support forward with Christ" were handed out. Actions from "Threatened with Resurrection" were discussed in small groups and the results will be considered in August by a small committee.

Sowing the Seed was theme for the annual Spring Rally of **Maitland** Presbyterial held in Ripley, Ontario on May 7th.

Following a salad supper, Eileen Chambers and the delegates that had attended Synodical opened the program with singing. President Mildred Dupont, welcomed everyone and read a poem "Lord of My Life."

The meditation was presented by Shirley McCall and Joan Threndyle of Kincardine, reading the scripture of the seed and the sower from Mark 4.

Largaret McInnes and Ina Ireland of Teeswater led the Memorial Service in memory of faithful former members who have passed on.

June Wylds of Ashfield received an Honorary Membership Certificate.

The guest speaker was Karen Clugston of Wingham, a short-term missionary to Japan in the summer of 1992. She shared some of her experiences while working there with a minister in a local church, teaching English to Japanese students and sharing the gospel with them.

Kathleen Elliott of Whitechurch extended thanks to everyone who had participated and Margaret Beirnes of Molesworth closed the meeting with prayer.

Quebec Presbyterial held a Spring Thankoffering on April 23 at St. Andrew's Church, Sherbrooke, Quebec.

President Margaret Goodhue welcomed everyone and led in prayer. Special guests were Vera MacEwen, Synodical President and Lorna MacGregor, President of Glengarry Presbyterial.

Rev. Blake Walker installed the officers for 1996-97. The Presbyterian Women's Group, Melbourne, Quebec, took the devotions with Nadine Fafard leading, and including a time of thanksgiving in memory of a long-time member, Margaret Imrie.

Youth and Children's Secretary, Nadine Fafard reported on the up-coming summer camp activities at Camp

D'Action Biblique, Richmond, Quebec.

Guest speaker, Daniel Forget gave an inspiring talk on a "Woman's Faith" based on Matthew 15:21-28. A time of reflection followed as discussion took place about the role of "Women in the Church" in earlier days and now. Roxieanne Walker thanked Daniel for his presentation.

Joyce McLeod adjourned the meeting with prayer and a time of fellowship followed.

The **Peterborough** Spring Rally was held at Knox Church, Havelock, Ontario on May 22nd, 1996. The theme was *Sow the Spirit, Reap the Spirit.* An opening sing along led by Jackie Kelly and accompanied by pianist Helen King was enjoyed by all.

President Ada Chapman opened the meeting with prayer followed by greetings from Rev. Roger Millar, Knox Church. Worship was led by the Cobourg group.

The book report was given by Eleanor Reading of Norwood, and a display of books for sale was exhibited. Barbara Wilson of Knox Church sang a solo.

Following April Synodical reports, we divided into small groups with thoughts and prayers for our missionaries.

Lunch was prepared and served by the Knox women.

Guest speakers Brian and Louise Baxter of Cobourg showed slides along with an exciting presentation by Louise of the work being done with the Town of Cobourg twinning with Mazuzu in Malawi, East Africa.

Courtesies were given by the Lakehurst group.

Glengarry Presbyterial met in St. Luke's-Knox Church, Finch, Ontario for the Spring Rally on May 28, 1996.

President Lorna MacGregor presided and Shelagh MacDougall, from the host church, welcomed everyone.

Worship led by Peg Ferguson and Marjorie Leslie, was based on the theme for the day *Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.* (I Thess. 5:11)

Guest speaker, Susan Brandt told how she turned her life around when she gave her heart to Jesus. Susan spent six years as a Public Health nurse and a high school nurse. She is presently Co-ordinator of Ottawa Innercity Ministries, serving the poor and disadvantaged of downtown Ottawa.

Several boxes of supplies for personal care and first aid were donated by WMS member for health clinics and shelters of Ottawa Innercity Ministries.

Sheila Paterson offered prayers and grace, after which a luncheon was served by St. Luke's-Knox women.

The afternoon session began with a hymn sing led by Vera MacEwen, accompanied by Iva Bush, pianist for the day.

A Memorial Service for former members, was conducted by Sheila Paterson, Jean Lothian and Muriel Belanger.

Mildred Ross, Ingleside, sang a solo.

Rev. Leslie Walker, minister of the host church, welcomed us and also brought greetings from Presbytery.

Courtesies were expressed by Emily McInnes, Martintown. Lorna MacGregor closed the meeting with prayer.

Dr. Raymond Hodgson, the new regional staff person for the Synod/Synodical of Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario, was the special guest at a "Get Acquainted" Pot Luck Supper meeting with **Superior** Presbyterial on May 31 in First Church hall, Thunder Bay, Ontario. The meeting was chaired by Vice-President, Olga Ferrier, who also introduced the speaker.

Since Ray arrived in Winnipeg in January, in the midst of one of the worst blizzards in decades, till the present time, he has discovered how much time is spent on travelling and how large the area is!

He briefly introduced the mission studies for 1996-97.

Ray discussed the many changes being planned in the WMS, as well as in the whole church. Members are being urged to be open-minded and patient as these changes are tried. However we must never lose sight of our Purpose as "a community of Christian women...."

Mission on our Doorstep was the theme when the **Vancouver Island** Presbyterial met on February 14th for their annual meeting at Knox Church at Sooke, B.C.

President Abbi Thompson opened the meeting with prayer and welcomed Laurie Jackson, Synodical President, and Rev. Wayne Stretch, Director of Program and Pastoral Care for B.C. Synod. The women of the Sooke WMS conducted the opening devotions, after which the annual reports where received and discussed. Lunch was served by the women of the Sooke Guild.

The afternoon session opened with a moving memorial service by Win Thomas who spoke of her memories and happy times spent with her long time friend, Jean Summers, a faithful servant of the WMS in St. Andrews.

Rev. Wayne Stretch then introduced the study on Europe.

Laurie Jackson installed the officers for 1996 with a challenge to go forth to serve God willingly and cheerfully.

On June 15th the Annual Rally of **Brandon and Winnipeg** Presbyterials was held at First Church, Portage la Prairie. Brandon Presbyterial President Gloria Kennedy welcomed the group. Opening worship was conducted by Dr. Raymond Hodgson, regional staff person for the Synod/Synodical of Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario. The theme was *The Call of God.*

The annual Council meeting was reported on by delegates. Gloria Kennedy, who is convenor of the Editorial Working group, spoke about the award Glad Tidings received for Barbara Mitchell's poem "Alzheimer", which she asked Jean Campbell to read aloud.

Ina Borger from Holland and Gloria Kennedy from Colombia, told of their initial experiences and impressions on coming to this country, as several did at Council '96 in relation to the Multiculturalism study.

Prior to lunch, a moment of silence was observed in grateful memory of Signe MacKay of Superior Presbyterial.

Following lunch we were joined by members of the United Church to hear guest speakers, Rev. Peggy Reid and her husband, Dennis Single, who have been serving in Nigeria. They were introduced by Eileen Parish. Peggy and Dennis had a display and showed slides. Jean Campbell expressed thanks.

Edmonton-Peace River Presbyterial enjoyed a pleasant Semi-Annual Fellowship on June 1, 1996 at First Church, Edmonton. The meeting was chaired by Catherine Leadbetter in the absence of President Margaret Moar.

Millwoods WMS led the morning worship, following the theme of *Footprints.* A paraphrase of the 23rd Psalm was used. Ann Paterson led in singing a scripture chorus.

Ann then presented an excellent report from Council, stating it was a learning experience to witness the commitment of this dynamic group.

Following lunch served by the WMS group from First Church, Catherine Leadbetter presented an Honorary Life Membership to Rev. Ray Glen to express thanks for his faithful support over the years. A corsage was presented to his wife Kay as a token of her faithfulness.

After a joyous hymn sing, Millie Freeman introduced guest speaker, Rev. Roy Gellatly who used the theme to lead us on a journey to visualize how the work of missionaries has grown, and to recognize that mission has become specialized.

Rev. Gellatly closed with prayer.

Central Alberta Presbyterial held their Spring Rally at Valley Centre on June 10. The theme was *Celebrating Our Roots.*

Mary Duncan, president welcomed all and introduced special guests Rev. Roy Gellatly and his wife Beverly, and President of the Alberta and Northwest Coordinating Committee Janette Mackie.

Agnes Hislop led the worship service and the Valley Centre choir presented several songs. The Memorial Service was conducted by Anna Cunningham.

Report on Council, which included photos, was given by Janette Mackie and Rev. Gellatly.

Before breaking for lunch, provided by the Valley Centre women, Rev. Gellatly talked about our theme "roots" and the end result on the tree - fruit. He saw the WMS' main roots as mission, service and education.

The afternoon was taken with business followed by a video "Many Faces of the Caribbean."

Under the theme *Make a joyful noise unto the Lord* **Stratford-Huron** Presbyterial met in Atwood Church for the Spring Rally. The day's program followed a camping theme with food and decorations to match.

The Monkton group looked after registration. Shirley Aicheson accompanied a lively hymn sing preceding the afternoon program.

The Cromarty women conducted devotions. Bible study was given by Nancy Vorstenbosch with her mother, Bev Nichol assisting. Scriptures were considered under the topic of relationships: "Are they easier to create or destroy?" This study closed by everyone placing a tag representing a friendly deed received earlier that day on to a barren tree branch. Seminars included piecing together a quilt top to be given to Camp Kintail.

Guest speaker was Rev. Gwen Brown, Camp Kintail Director. Assisted by Eryn Sinclair and Randy Pearce with guitar, Gwen led in the singing of favorite camping songs. She described Camp Kintail and how she has observed the effect the fellowship of camping has on campers' and leaders' lives.

A humorous skit was presented by the Britton group. The offering was donated to Camp Kintail expenses. A camping grace was sung and Atwood members served supper to 80 in attendance.

A scavenger hunt of items around the church proved exciting.

Special music was enjoyed as Lois Sage and Helen Coghlin played several favorite songs on piano and mouth organ.

Synodical reports were given and Dorothy Worden gave courtesies for the day. The day's program concluded with Vespers.

The annual meeting of **Kamloops** Presbyterial was held in St. David's Church, Kelowna, B.C. June 13-15. Delegates were welcomed by Helen Dobie, President of Ada Adams WMS, Kelowna.

Laurie Jackson, Synodical President, Wayne Stretch, Pastoral Program Director and Ann VanPolen, Presbyterial delegate reported enthusiastically on

Council '96 which they had attended.

Laurie Jackson asked that we pray for our new Moderator, Tam Corbett, as she travels and works in the year ahead.

Speaking to the theme *New Ways of Doing Mission* Wayne Stretch presented innovative ideas to explore and use.

A panel of three speakers from the Kelowna Drop-in Centre (for transients) told of their work. A question period followed.

There was a choice of a trip to the Art gallery, Museum or a walk along Okanagan Lake. Skits were presented, singing enjoyed and breaks gave time for relaxed fellowship.

The business meeting, conducted by Joan Monteith of Armstrong-Vernon indicated a good year in '95.

Laurie Jackson installed the officers followed by a short devotional and "In Memoriam" led by Joyce Armstrong of Kamloops.

A closing service of Holy Communion was conducted by Rev. Wayne Stretch.

LOCAL

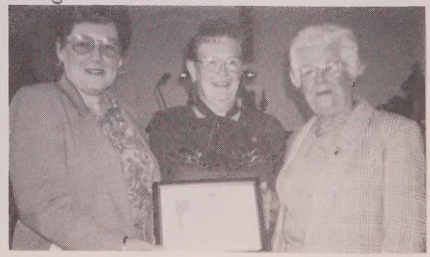
The Session of **Geneva Church, Chesley**, Ontario held a surprise birthday party following the church service on May 12 for Fanny Ross (pictured below) to mark her 90th birthday. A life-long member of Geneva, Fanny taught Sunday School, looked after the Senior Mission Band and was a long-time member, president and treasurer of the Women's Missionary Society, now the Helen Ross Auxiliary, named after her sister. Fanny worked for several years in the Cecilia Jeffrey Indian Residential School in Kenora.

- Fanny Ross

Pictured above are the WMS of **Knox Church, Belmore**, Ontario who knitted four inch squares from scrap pieces of yarn. The squares were then sewn together and an afghan was made to be given to the Women's Shelter in the area.

WMS members holding the afghan are left to right: Judy Lyons, June Simmons, Janet Inglis, Lynda Fitch (President), Reta vanEngen, Mildred Dupont and Jean Stokes (secretary).

On May 12, 1996, Margaret McCullough, a member of Bethel and president of London Presbyterial was presented with an Honorary Life pin and Certificate by Bethel WMS evening group at **Bethel Church, Ilderton**, Ontario. Pictured below are left to right: Katherine McNaughton, Margaret McCullough and Margaret Carmichael.



Guests at the recent WMS Thankoffering service at **St. Andrew's, Port Credit**, Ontario were Drs. John and Heather Johnston. John spoke about his recent trip to Africa and the celebrations and trials there.

Pictured abovr are left to right: Jim Cooper, Doreen Cooper, Heather Johnston, John Johnston and May Robertson, WMS President.

Ruth Yeandle, a diligent Christian worker for over 60 years, recently celebrated her 94th birthday with some of her former students and members of the **Vancouver Chinese Church**, WMS. Although she was born in Vancouver on June 26, 1902, she received most of her schooling in Penticton, B.C. where her father worked on the Kettle Valley Railway. Ruth graduated in nursing from the Vancouver General Hospital in 1925 and studied midwifery in Chicago.

After two years at the Vancouver Bible School, she worked as an evangelist for the Faith Mission in the Interior of B.C. Mary Fisher, a friend and a missionary said, "Ruth learned her thorough Bible teaching from the Rev. Walter Ellis." She then worked a few years as the night supervisor of the former Grace Maternity Hospital in Vancouver, now the Women's and Children's Centre.

In the late 1930s, funded by the Presbyterian Church WMS, Ruth started Christian work at the Vancouver Chinese Church in Chinatown. For the next 37 years before her retirement, she supervised a kindergarten, visited homes, conducted Bible studies, taught Sunday

- Pictured above are back row left to right: Margaret Mah, Margaret (Mei) Ma, Rebecca Kee, Irene Bleackley, Rose Lum, Anita Wong; front row: Jean Shuen, Ruth Yeandle, Holly Siu and Betty Ho.

School, and gave English lessons to immigrants. Later, many of her students became leaders in the church and community.

After her retirement, true to her love of God and the Bible, Ruth Yeandle continued to teach several Bible studies a week. Presently Miss Yeandle resides in the Amherst Nursing Home in Vancouver.

Signe Noell MacKay (nee Broman), born December 25, 1925, died peacefully on June 9, 1996, as a result of leukemia. She was actively involved in the life of **First Church, Thunder Bay**, Ontario right up to January, 1996.

At the time of her death, she was an elder and assistant treasurer of the church; member and former president of the Evening Guild and of Superior Presbyterial. She organized and took care of funeral lunches and was always involved in all church activities, usually in the kitchen.

Signe is survived by husband Ian, sons Peter and Roddy (and his wife, Margi), many grandchildren nieces and nephews.

Signe had a great sense of fun and took part in many skits, often ones she

had written or revised. She wrote many poems or songs for special occasions.

No Superior Presbyterial Annual meeting was complete without Signe's bit of fun, and, once at a Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario Synodical meeting she entertained with caricature drawings (and suitable commentary) of the local Presbyterial executive.

The hymn she wrote for the 80th Anniversary of Superior Presbyterial, appeared in the May 1994 Glad Tidings.

Signe's strong Christian faith was demonstrated in all she did and said. She is sorely missed.

Grace Gray, a long-time, faithful member of **Leaskdale** Church, Leaskdale, Ontario, passed away on June 1, 1996 in her 92nd year.

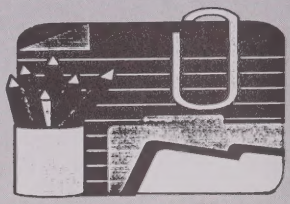
Grace held many offices in the local WMS and was given an Honorary Life Membership Certificate. She also served on the Executive of Lindsay Presbyterial for some years, was a Sunday School teacher and Explorer leader.

Grace was a diligent worker in the Women's Association and took a keen interest in the life of the community.

Grace was predeceased by her husband, Sandy in 1981. She is survived by daughter Eva Griffin, four grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

- Former Area Consultant Margaret Greig received an Honorary Life Membership Certificate from Lindsay Presbyterial at an Appreciation Tea on June 22 at Tempo Church. Left of Margaret (centre) is Margaret McCullough, President and right, Jean Middleton.

Correction: Under "local" news on page 45 of the July/August Glad Tidings, the name of Mary Purser McNeice was mispelled. It is *McNeice*, not McNiece. Our apologies.



Circulation News

Has your group received the Glad Tidings mailing which was sent to all Glad Tidings secretaries/contact persons in August? It contains the subscription lists and ideas for promotion. If by mid-September the Glad Tidings secretary in your congregation has not received the mailing she should check with the local post office or contact our office. The mailing is sent to the Glad Tidings secretary/contact person listed by your group.

You can help the Glad Tidings secretary by having your money ready for her when she starts to collect in September for the 1997 subscriptions. The cost of subscriptions for 1997 has increased to $10.00 (including GST) for six issues which is a bargain considering the cost of other publications. **The deadline is November 1, 1996.**

Occasionally we receive a request to send the magazine in bulk. It is actually cheaper to mail the magazine separately. Considering the price of envelopes and adjustments to the labels, it can cost anywhere from $1.00 to $2.00 to mail depending on the number of issues in the envelope and the weight of the package. It only costs $.08 to mail a single copy of the Glad Tidings using second class postage, rate code 3. Also, if magazines were mailed in bulk, someone would need to be available to receive them to ensure that copies were distributed quickly. In some areas this would work, but in others it would be a burden. Please send us your comments any time.

Katherine Allen
Circulation Manager

A Reminder
It's Time to Renew Your Subscription

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2. Arranging to *transfer* your subscription if you are moving into an area where there is another group. It is more costly to *cancel* from one group and add as "new" on another.

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November 1, 1996
is the deadline for renewals and new subscriptions.
Cost of a subscription for 1997 is **$10.00** (including GST) for 6 issues.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Mrs. Jim (Mary) Henry,
Alberton, Ont.,

Mrs. Ruth Currie,
St. Andrew's, Barrie, Ont.

Miss Isabel McGaughey,
St. John's, Cornwall, Ont.

Mrs. Maybelle Cana,
Mrs. Ada Hoggarth,
Mrs. Mary Meikle,
Mrs. Molly Rowcliffe,
Caven, Exeter, Ont.

Mrs. Hattie (Harriet) Naidow,
St. Luke's-Knox, Finch, Ont.

Mrs. Evaline Field,
Mrs. Mary Graham,
St. James, Forest, Ont.

Mrs. Douglas (Margaret) Dodge,
St. Andrew's, Gordonville, Ont.

Mrs. Elsie MacDonald,
Miss Violet Scott,
Knox, Havelock, Ont.

Mrs. Elizabeth Swaffield,
St. Paul's, Hawkesbury, Ont.

Mrs. Gertrude E. MacGregor,
St. David's, Kelowna, B.C. .

Mrs. Grace Gray,
St. Paul's, Leaskdale, Ont.

Mrs. Stella Gould,
Chalmers, London, Ont.

Mrs. Viola Bilton,
St. Andrew's, Mount Forest, Ont.

Mrs. Gladys Balsdon,
Mrs. Annie Stickland,
St. Andrew's, Newmarket, Ont.

Mrs. B. Mulholland,
St. Andrew's, Norwood, Ont.

Elsie Butt,
Berniece Robinson,
Tweedsmuir, Orangeville, Ont.

Mrs. Mabelle F. Arch,
Mrs. Margaret T. Shaddick,
Westminster, Ottawa, Ont.

Mrs. Helen Shaw,
Tolmie Memorial, Port Elgin, Ont.

Mrs. Hilda Zychowka,
St. Paul's, Prince Albert, Sask.

Margaret Brown,
First & St. Stephens, Regina, Sask.

Mrs. Mabel McMichael,
First, Seaforth, Ont.

Mrs. Maureen Edward,
Fairview, Vancouver, B.C.

Mrs. Lorraine Colford,
Knox, Westport, Ont.

Mrs. Roy (Mae) Gillatly,
St. Andrew's, Wyoming, Ont.
(formerly member Council Exec.)

Correction:
In Remembrance - July/August issue should read Joye McFadden not Joyce McFadden of Elmvale, Ont.

Presbyterian World Service & Development

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One of PWS&D's partners in Southern Africa is the Christian Council of Lesotho. As part of its program, the Council publishes a magazine that helps people in villages share information about agriculture, health care, education and the environment. Sharing ideas about community development ensures that children like these can look forward to a brighter future.

Thank you for supporting the work of PWS&D and its partners around the world. For more information, please contact the PWS&D office.

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Please report any errors/changes in address.

Glad Tidings

November/December 1996

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Glad Tidings

Nov./Dec. 1996 Volume 72 No.6

L. JUNE STEVENSON
EDITOR

KATHERINE ALLEN
CIRCULATION MANAGER

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GLAD TIDINGS reports on aspects of the Women's Missionary Society on all levels.

GLAD TIDINGS challenges concerned Christians to reflect on their faith through articles and reports related to mission and social justice issues, locally, nationally and internationally.

GLAD TIDINGS through its content, encourages readers to become informed, educated, inspired and motivated to action.

GLAD TIDINGS provides a forum for a broad spectrum of opinion and information, thus the views expressed in features, news reports, letters and book reviews are not necessarily endorsed by the WMS (WD) or by the Editor.

Cover art and pages 17, 19 — Paper cuts from the Amity Christian Art Centre, Nanjing, China.

Madeleine L'Engle: "Master" Storyteller and Mystic

I first encountered the writings of Madeleine L'Engle, when I came to work for the WMS. Her award winning book, "A Wrinkle in Time", and others, were featured in the WMS Book Room. Through the years I heard of her works, many for youth, and the strong Christian emphasis that permeated all she wrote.

This summer I had the opportunity to encounter in person Madeleine L'Engle, Christian woman, writer and sage. A two-week course at Vancouver School of Theology (VST) deeply moved me, both in my personal life and as a writer. It was like sitting at the feet of a master. (Madeleine will pardon that sexist phrase with her belief that God is above gender, and her dislike of the artificial manipulation of language. She has, through all her writing, *master*fully encouraged both men and women to seek a full understanding of God, of whom she says in her book And It Was Good, pp 17-18, "it takes both male and female to complete the image of God." Carole F. Chase, in her insightful biography of L'Engle, calls her a "consciousness raiser who has heightened our sensitivity about what it means to be a whole human being." (*Madeleine L'Engle, Suncatcher: Spiritual Vision of a Storyteller* by Carole F. Chase. See page 30 for more details.)

There were about 100 persons registered in the course, many from the west coast, especially Americans. Though a New Yorker, L'Engle is well known on the west coast, and among Christian circles everywhere. Her courses are well attended wherever she goes. Twenty-five of us were selected to be part of a smaller group who met with Madeleine and her teaching assistant, Fay Lapka, from Regent College, for an hour before class. The larger group met for two hours which often went over three hours. L'Engle's easy style of teaching, and her obvious enjoyment of sharing with people, transformed an ordinary course into a revitalizing experience.

Each night we had an assignment and every day we had the opportunity to read our writing to the smaller group, and sometimes to the larger group. For many it was an intimidating but thrilling experience. The variety of styles of writing and the vast experiences of people - many teachers, pastors, housewives and students, some from as far away as Australia - and of many religious denominations, added an eclectic flavour to the class.

L'Engle, who resists being called a "Christian" writer, says she is a "writer who is also a Christian." Out of her vast experience of Scripture - she begins and ends her day reading the Bible - she weaves biblical themes throughout her books. Those who have "ears to hear" may be moved to explore these themes more fully. Others will find it inspiring reading. Chase describes how L'Engle regards the Bible "as a great storybook full of the adventures of imperfect people chosen for special deeds and missions." We were encouraged to use scripture as the background for our stories, indeed I was surprised to see the Bible listed on the prescribed reading list for the course.

Her assignments had strict boundaries. We could think about what we would write for

- At the "master's" feet.

- Madeleine, (left) with June Stevenson at book signing; right L'Engle and Lapka, a great team!

any length of time, but when we sat down to write it was to be a prescribed length and for a prescribed time - perhaps one page in 15 minutes, or three pages in one hour. No more, no less. Daunted by this challenge I found myself reading scripture for hours, pacing the floor and struggling with what I might write. However, the formula worked magically. Once I sat down at the computer, the words poured forth as though pulled unbidden from deep inside me and arranged themselves on the screen. One hour, three pages.

Images, emotions, people I never knew existed, seemed to fill my room as I wrote, and waited their turn on the pages of my story. I found myself entering into biblical stories, not in my usual role of reporter, but as one of the characters. The experience was one of reaching deep inside myself and encountering a deep well of knowledge and feeling I never realized was there. In giving life and voice to my characters I was able to melt the ice in that well, and to allow my own authentic voice to speak out. I will never again be afraid of writer's block because when I write I will hear Madeleine's voice telling me to allow the Spirit to work through me and to let go my control and be part of the creative process.

Madeleine "prays even when she does not feel like praying; she writes when she does not feel like writing. Both experiences also involve a deep kind of *listening*, moving beyond chatter to the silent place where God can be heard," Chase writes, referring to Madeleine's words in *Walking on Water*. It is during the writing, not before it, that inspiration comes. "The true artist, one who is willing to surrender self, is given the gift of the work."

I took this course out of my own need to learn more about writing, to learn how to free the muse (source of artistic inspiration) within me, and to understand what God may be calling me to do through writing. These needs, and many more, were answered, in two weeks at VST. I could write a book about the experience. However, I have other things I must write now. You must have the experience for yourself if this is what you need in your life. Take a course with Madeleine L'Engle. Read some of her books. She has written over fifty, some of them are available through the WMS Book Room. Get to know this wonderful woman for yourself and get in touch with your own muse. Your life, like mine, will never be the same again.

Written in Love
Jesse

No Room

Oh, where is the Christ Child of Christmas?
Now, what have we done unto Him?
God sent down His dear Son from heaven:
A gift, to save us from sin.
But on that historic, first Christmas,
They couldn't find room in the inn.
Christ was born in a barn, with the cattle
On hay, in a musty feed-bin.

They call this the blest Christmas season.
Excitement explodes through the air.
The streets are so crowded with people
Who dash in and out, here and there.
They're driven into a wild frenzy.
They're caught in the "mad buyer's snare."
But where is the Christ Child of Christmas?
Have you seen Him around anywhere?

The streets are ablaze with bright lighting.
The malls are all bursting with toys.
We see Santa Claus and his reindeer,
Enticing small girls and wee boys.
There's holly, and tinsel, and trinkets.
There's music, and laughter, and noise.
There is food, and there's fun, and there's frolic
But it's hard to find any real joy.

Oh, where is the Christ Child of Christmas?
Pray, what have we done unto Him?
Is He pushed away off in a corner?
Or lost midst the wrappings and trim?
He stands at the door, and He's knocking.
Will we be inviting Him in?
Or will Christ be removed from our Xmas
Just because we've no room in our inn?

Helen Dowd

MISSION STUDY THEME

From Piracy to Lychee Growing

How Christianity Makes a Difference in Xiyang Village

by Amy Snow

- You Muhua, in flourishing orchard.

High in the mountains of north Fujian, near the village of Xiyang (Chee-yang) young children are playing in an orchard of lychee saplings. (This area is near the Taiwan Straits.) It is a peaceful scene; yet only a few years ago these childrens' fathers were pirates, and violent crime and equally violent police action made this village a dangerous and desperate place.

The mountains in this area make the transport of goods to the nearby city difficult. Agriculture can be good, but, in the early 1980's the farmers in the village had difficulty making ends meet because of a long dry period. No other work was available, and Xiyang Village was really struggling.

Many of the young men went down the mountains to the sea and turned to piracy. They looted small boats that served as homes for local fishermen and their families. They attacked small vessels for money or goods. This desperate attempt to improve their living conditions resulted in an even more desperate response from the authorities. Between 1978 and 1984, 28 local men were sentenced to death for piracy.

You Muhua, a local Christian woman, realized that the problem was not only economic, but spiritual as well. She had become a Christian in 1975 when her aunt persuaded her to come to worship. She worshipped with a small group of Christians in secret because the government was not open to Christianity during the Cultural Revolution. In 1979 they began to make the hour-long trip by bus to the county seat to attend church there.

You Muhua looked for a way to confront the problem of piracy in her village. She began with Zheng Qinjian, the young man who had proposed to her, and decided to marry him, because she felt called to bring him to Christ. He had been one of the many involved in piracy, but under his wife's influence, Zheng gave it up and was eventually baptized.

Soon, the couple became the leaders of the local congregation. The young peasant woman with the big smile preached every

Sunday. Where did she learn to do that? "Oh, I don't have much education," she answered. "I am just a simple woman. But I went to a training course for lay church leaders in the county town for a couple of weeks."

To make some money, Zheng started to refine his skills in processing jasmine tea and became well known for the quality of his tea. Local farmers hired him to process their tea crops. With their personal income rising, the couple started thinking how nice it would be for the village to have its own church building. They decided to offer 1,200 yuan (US$145) as the start for a church building fund. Many of the other villagers were skeptical but You Muhua persisted. She went to Fuzhou to appeal to other established churches for help.

Then a graduate of Nanjing Seminary returned to her home nearby, and heard of You's church building efforts. She notified the China Christian Council in Nanjing, and support started to come from the Fujian Provincial Christian Council.

The church was opened in 1990. You Muhua and Zheng Qinjian were pleased, but they realized that it was the community of Christians who would gradually solve their village's problems.

Later, Xiyang's Christians started a "know-how committee": Seven young Christian peasants were sent to the county town to learn how to grow oranges and mushrooms. On their return, they passed their knowledge on to anyone in the village who wanted to learn, Christian and non-Christian alike. "We have learned from the Bible that as Christians, we should love our neighbours," You Muhua explained. The results were impressive: in the groves around the village, orange trees were weighted down with ripening fruit, and mushroom growers had a great variety of produce to sell, with some specimens bigger than the palm of a person's hand.

In 1992, the Christians of Xiyang went a step further along their road to communal prosperity. All 43 Christian families organized themselves into a cooperative. You Muhua applied to the local government for

land to establish an orchard. To everybody's surprise, the reply was positive and generous. The government had already turned down other applicants, but it offered the church 10 hectares of land. With all their good work for the village's development, the Christians had won the respect and appreciation of the authorities, who now fully trusted the Christians' good intentions.

In 1993, the Amity Foundation donated 35,000 yuan (US$4,200) for the purchase of 2,500 saplings, and You Muhua hired 18 workers from the village on a part-time basis. She sent them to neighbouring counties to learn how to grow lychees and another similar fruit, the longan. The Provincial Christian Council arranged for lychee experts to visit and help the new farmers. Church collection money has been used to cover the workers' expenses until the first fruits can be harvested and marketed in September this year. Only then – three years after the planting of trees–will the workers start to earn money. In anticipation of coming rewards, they have been using the winter months terracing and planting, cutting and pruning. In this way, they make productive use of slack seasons, times when many of them went astray in the past.

Income from lychee and longan sales is expected to be sufficient to cover the workers' salaries. In the long run, the project will need to buy a motor boat to market its produce. Any further profit will go into church-funded projects. The first will be the building of a canteen next to the

- You Muhua and Zheng Qinjian, happy with success of project.

church. With this, the church will be able to provide mid-day meals for those who walk miles to attend worship on Sundays. The orchard workers are among those who climb over the mountain to attend church, an hour-long strenuous hike. They are looking forward to this project.

You Muhua is happy to welcome newcomers to the small church though its 200-plus members already fill most of the seats. The addition of a second floor is in the planning stages, since the congregation is growing. You's husband, the pirate-turned-Christian, has become a role model for many of Xiyang's young men, and a number of them appear at church on Sundays. The church has a young congregation, with the oldest member being 55 years old. You happily points out that many families come to church, and she hopes that the children will grow up in the church community and continue to live as Christians throughout their lives.

In 1995, You Muhua visited the Philippines with an Amity delegation of Chinese people involved in church-run projects to study church-based social development work there. Many Philippine partners learned about the social transformation in Xiyang Village. In recognition of her work as a community leader, You was invited to Beijing to receive an award for outstanding women in China on International Women's Day (March 8) last year. She also became vice-director of the Women's Federation in her county. However, when some local leaders suggested that she join the Party, You politely declined: "My loyalty belongs to the church," she said. "What I am doing for the community, I do as a servant of Christ."

- Amy Snow is an Amity teacher at Ningde Teachers College in northern Fujian. Amy visited Xiyang Village with two Amity staff members in November, 1995.

– Reprinted from *Amity Newsletter*, 1995, No. 36, 1/1996.

Mission Mercy Flight

by Gwen Wilkey

I can see the baby won't survive another night. In his mother's arms his emaciated body is no bigger than a new born, although he is two months old.

"We have to fly him to the hospital right away. I'll come back for you in about an hour," Damien, the pilot, says to Sister Tarsilla. With no time for goodbyes I run to the small plane with Sister Mameso to help the Maasai mamma (tribal colloquialism) aboard with her toto (Swahili for child). Within ten minutes we are airborne and heading back to the mission hospital at Endulen, a short turbulent flight over Ngorogoro Crater to the edge of the Serengeti Plains in Tanzania. As we fly low over the soda flats of Lake Eyasi clouds of pink flamingoes rise ahead of us. Inside the plane the smell of diarrhoea permeates the small cabin. This toto is totally dehydrated and also has malaria.

Mamma had walked for four hours to reach Mangola clinic. Instead of leaving early enough to reach the clinic by starting time she waited until she saw the plane fly over her village. By the time she arrived the clinic had long since finished. We had left on a previous emergency airlift to the hospital at Endulen carrying a twelve-year-old boy with an enlarged spleen and his ten year old sister, with malaria and a temperature of 40°C. Fortunately we had to return to Mangola to pick up Sister Tarsilla. Otherwise the baby would have died by morning.

Following what reassurance I can give her in Swahili, the woman manages a weak smile, which quickly disappears as we bank sharply and buzz the hospital to let them know we are about to land. I admire the courage of this Maasai woman stepping from the primitive bush into the small plane and the 20th century.

This small Cessna aircraft is one of two owned by Medical Flying Services (MFS).

- Gwen Wilkey with Mother Superior (left), Sister Tarsilla and two patients at the hospital. Photo by Mike Wilkey.
-Photo, top of page, by Gwen Wilkey: The Medical Flying Service Cessna 206 landing on the dusty airstrip at Mangola clinic.

Based in Arusha, MFS is managed by Father Pat who takes flights in turn with pilots Damien and Chris. Usually accompanied by two sisters or a doctor, these young men help administer clinics in remote areas of Tanzania and if necessary, fly patients to the nearest hospital for treatment. They live at a mission base in Arusha on $100 per month and can't imagine doing anything else.

The small plane touches down and taxis along the rough, grass airstrip. Hot and tired, we climb out only to be enveloped by the heat. Squinting across the dry, sweet smelling knee high grass we look for the vehicle which will take us over the two kilometres of rough track to the mission hospital beyond the grassy hills. I guide mamma to the only available shade under the wing of the plane and sit down to wait. The heat seems to intensify the smell of the red earth and the fragrant grass more than the soiled cloth in which the infant is wrapped. After a while the 4 x 4 arrives.

Crawling along the uneven track in second gear, to make the ride as smooth as possible for the infant patient, we arrive at the mission compound, a cluster of small cement buildings. Only the chapel is identifiable by its cross at the door. Sister Mameso takes mamma and baby to the small hospital while Damien and I look for some debris (four gallon gas containers) to fill with fuel for the return flight. The driver appears with two bottles of Coke for us. Back at the plane Damien climbs up onto the wings to fill the fuel tanks. Soon we're in the air heading back to Mangola to pick up Sister Tarsilla.

This time I pick out the clinic easily as we approach the short, dusty airstrip. The grass roofed, mud and wattle hut and two nearby acacia trees are the only significant features for miles around. When we first arrived I was naive enough to expect a cement building with a tin roof. That seems days ago although it has only been four hours. In that short time Damien, Sister Tarsilla, my husband and myself have weighed and vaccinated 110 babies and 46 mammas. Sister Tarsilla has also

- Author's husband, Michael, weighing one of 110 babies inside clinic at Mangola. Photo by Gwen Wilkey.

examined 14 pregnant mammas while Sister Mameso has examined and treated 45 patients for everything from cuts and colds to malaria. All this in addition to the two emergency airlifts back to the mission hospital at Endulen. After collecting Sister Tarsilla we hope to return to the mission in time for supper before turning in early.

Back at Endulen the sun is setting and the hum of the *dudus* (Swahili for insects) increases while we sit, each with our own thoughts, waiting for supper. I recall the relief on the face of the Maasai mother when she realized she'd arrived at Mangola clinic just in time to have her baby flown to hospital. If it hadn't been for that little brother and sister, she would have been too late. I can't help but ponder the timing of those sick children's arrival and how their illnesses prevented another's tragedy. Such are the mysteries of God and Africa.

- Gwen Wilkey is a Victoria based freelance writer who recently returned from a working visit to Kenya and Tanzania. In Tanzania she flew with the Flying Medical Service to Endulen, a small mission hospital between Ngorogoro Crater and the Serengeti and from there flew to even more remote clinics where she assisted the pilots and sisters attending to Maasai women and babies.

- Presbyterian World Service and Development is in partnership with another flying medical service in Africa, the *International Mission.* Nan and Herbert Budding work with IM in Kenya and Tanzania.

It's Only Money

by Gladys Nolan

I started hearing that expression from the younger generation. Being a senior, and having gone through the "dirty thirties" as we named depression days, money has always been respected, and care taken to never spend it wastefully. Money, my dictionary says is "officially issued coins and paper currency that serve as a medium of exchange and as a measure of value, and may be used as payment of goods and services, and for settlement of debts."

Money was a word we as children seldom heard spoken. Our loving parents concentrated on bringing up their five daughters in a loving, kind way. We were well fed, and taught to always love one another and to be kind to everyone.

I know now that my father didn't earn a great deal of money working for the Canadian Pacific Railway. On one of Dad's pay days, I remember seeing about sixty dollars in bills on our kitchen table where my mother was sorting out the accounts she had to pay. It looked like a great deal of money to my young eyes, but no doubt, it kept mother busy trying to stretch it to pay the mortgage and put food on our table.

We children were given a few pennies as a treat to spend as we wished. My special treat was a square of home-made fudge, which cost a penny. It was made at the local bake shop in our small town. The smell of bread baking there, and the taste of fudge remains with me long after the pennies I had are forgotten.

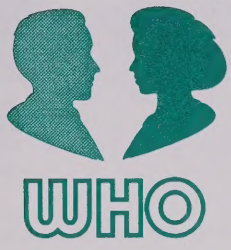
Some pennies I hid in a small tin, which I eventually buried in our back yard. (Shades of Stephen Leacock.) I didn't trust banks. One day when I had a dollar saved this way I dug it up, went to a church sale of crafts and bought my mother an apron for Mother's Day. Blew the whole dollar. She was worth it.

I can honestly say I've never envied people who have a lot of money. If it makes them happy, God bless them. I suffer along with those who suffer from the lack of money. I respect it for what it is intended to be...a means of exchange. I've no tolerance for those whose greed exceeds their need of money. They have a sickness even money will not cure, because the more they get, the more they'll want.

The Good News Bible says in I Timothy 6:10, "For the love of money is a source of all evil." We read news every day that proves that saying to be true. There's also news on how money has helped the unfortunate, and made work for those who need it.

Yes, it is only money. It can bless, or curse us. May God help us to keep it for what it was intended.

- Gladys Nolan is a freelance writer from London, Ontario. (See July/August 1996, page 19 for a more complete biography.)



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MARITIME AND ONTARIO CGIT CAMP COUNCILS A HUGE SUCCESS!

Senior CGIT girls from Alberta. Saskatchewan, Ontario and the Maritimes participated in leadership camps in the Maritimes and Ontario. Each camp had thirty-five girls, lots of sun, fun and learning.

Girls left with 34 new friends, a dedication to CGIT and one step closer to being the girl God would have them be.

Pictured below are the happy campers at the 1996 Ontario Camp Council.

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP 1996

Inside the Story

by Dorothy and Peter Ruddell

Call to Worship:

God's messenger visited Mary and hailed her as "favoured one." The messenger announced, "The Lord is with you." God's Spirit was to fall on Mary and she would bear a child who would be called "Son of God."

Mary's soul magnified the Lord. Her spirit rejoiced in God as Saviour. *(All bold type to be read responsively.)

We catch Mary's joy. We ponder, like Mary, what God did for all people in Jesus' birth.

We magnify the Lord. We rejoice in God as Saviour. We are blessed by what God did through Mary. (Based on Luke 1: 26-35, 47)

Hymn: "Once in royal David's city" #129 (Note: All hymns from *Book of Praise*)
or "While shepherds watched" #127

Prayer of Approach:

Gracious God, who chose Mary to bear the Christ who would redeem and transform the world;

we rejoice in your love and mercy which extend from generation to generation.

Loving God, whose gracious arms reach out and enfold people of all shapes, sizes and

races;

we celebrate that your love and grace extend to all who seek your face.

Forgiving God, whose forgiveness is ever present to us when we doubt your promises or appear unsure of your providential care;

we seek your forgiveness as we come before you with praise and thanksgiving for Jesus' birth in Bethlehem.

Revealing God, we pray that we may be open to a fresh experience of the story of Jesus' birth and may know the full joy and peace of Christmas.

Lord God, hear our prayer and grant its plea. Amen.

Scripture Readings: Luke 2:1-20 and Matthew 1:18-25

Hymn: "Love came down at Christmas" #138
or "Away in a manger" #141

Meditation:

We have read stories of Jesus' birth in Luke and Matthew. In Luke's story, Mary is the key player. In Matthew's, Joseph is. Mary and Joseph, each in their own way, struggle with the mystery and the majesty of the Christmas story. What do we hear in the Christmas story when we enter into its mystery and majesty? (pause - Participants could be asked to share their thoughts at each of these pauses.)

Emmanuel, God with us! What does that mean? For Mary and Joseph, it brought both fear and wonder. It brought action. Mary accepted God's way for her. She sang a song about God's power and desire for justice. Joseph followed God's direction that came in dreams. He took Mary as his betrothed. What do we hear about God in this story? (pause)

There is much to consider in this story. The faith of Mary and Joseph and their openness to God's leading. Mary's pondering of what she was told by God's messenger. Joseph's struggle with God's expectation and what people would think. What does this story say to us about our engagement with God? (pause)

God's messengers came to shepherds with good news from God. The shepherds saw no choice but to check out what they had been told. They discovered that all was just as they had been told. The news of Jesus' birth brought them great joy. How do we best express our own joy over Jesus' birth? (pause - Participants of various cultural backgrounds could be asked to share ways in which the truths of the Christmas story are celebrated and lived or, alternatively, people could share family traditions which have special meaning.)

We have spent just a brief time inside the stories about Jesus' birth. Hopefully, we have each learned something new. Perhaps we have caught hold of something we had missed before. What might we change about our celebration of Christmas? (pause - see paragraph 1 above)

Litany (Responsive):

God, who created an astounding story of grace and love around Jesus' birth,

we praise you for the faith of Mary and Joseph.

God, whose messenger called Mary favoured and told her she would be visited by God's spirit and conceive a son,

we praise you for Mary's ready obedience.

God, who by a dream, directed Joseph's response to the special child in Mary's womb,
we praise you for Joseph's readiness to be led.

God, who chose shepherds to hear the announcement of Jesus' birth,
we praise you for the news which was for all people.

God, who has touched and transformed lives through Jesus' life, death and resurrection,
we praise you for Jesus' birth in Bethlehem. Amen.

Offering Prayer:

Gracious, loving God, you have blessed us in many ways. With joy and love we present these gifts and pray that through them others may come to know your love; through Jesus, our Saviour born in Bethlehem. **God hear our prayer.**

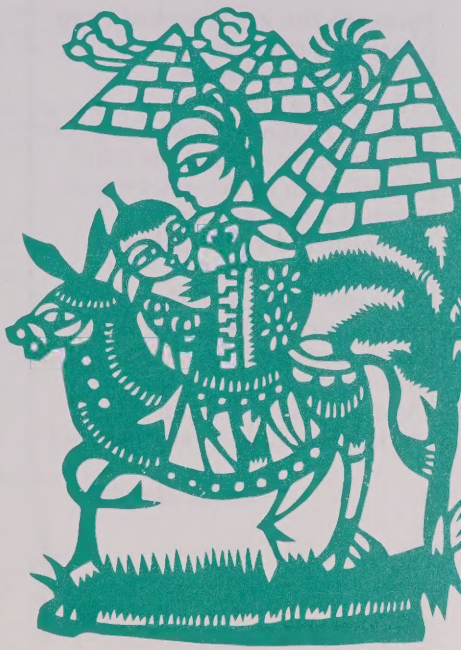
Hymn: "Joy to the world! the Lord is come" #134
or " 'Twas in the moon of winter-time" #139

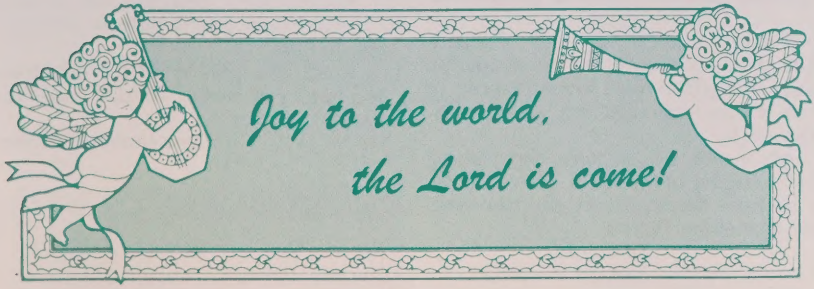
Closing Prayer:

The messengers to the shepherds praised God and proclaimed peace on earth among those whom God favours.

May each one of us know that peace and share it with both friend and stranger. Amen.

- Christmas Service prepared by Dorothy Ruddell, Manager of the WMS Book Room and Peter D. Ruddell, Minister of Hopedale Presbyterian Church, Oakville, ON





My Destiny

Beneath the white arched arms
Carrying mounds of snow
I found my footsteps
Weaving to and fro.
Should I follow the winding trail
Or meander around the lake?
Which path in the quiet woods
Should I seek and take?
A whispered voice within
Said take my hand,
And put your hand therein,
Your journey from day to day
Is yet a mystery
But trust in Me
And not your thought.
At last you'll find your destiny!

Grace Hartley

Thank You to Council Executive

Please convey to the Council Executive my thanks for the wonderful party and gift to mark my retirement. It was a fun night and my guest really enjoyed it.

My thanks, too, for many happy years in the employ of the WMS. I have gained a lot from the experience and take with me precious memories.

Sincerely,
Barbara Woodruff

Forward in Faith

In Romans 12:8b (NIV) it says, "if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously." Through the years members and friends have given generously to the Society. It also behooves us to be thankful to those who have remembered the Society in their wills. The majority of the money has been left so the membership can dispense with it for the extension of the Lord's Kingdom. Some funds have come with limited specifications creating a problem that the money cannot be used.

Other funds have been used by the Finance Committee to help financially:

students in ministry

conferences

ministers taking further education

people to attend conferences in Christian work

people to go to mission fields for short term exposure to missions

production of Christian material for adults and children

salary of children's worker–Margaret Read.

In 1995 we gave a total of $41,852 to the above designations. You the membership may know of someone needing help financially. Application forms can be obtained from the Executive Secretary. I firmly believe that money is to be used to help others.

Now some of you may want to remember the Society in your will. I give a word of caution–don't designate the money with restrictions that the purpose is impossible to fulfill.

Thank you also to all the treasurers who remit your money faithfully and regularly.

Irene Nesbitt, Treasuer

***"If it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously."* Romans 12:8b (NIV)**

PRESBYTERIAL AND SYNODICAL GIVINGS
January to August 1996

SYNODICAL	PRESBYTERIAL	ACTUAL
British Columbia	Kamloops	$5,877
	Kootenay	430
	Vancouver Island	9,108
	Westminster	16,027
		31,442
Alberta	Calgary-MacLeod	14,961
	Edmonton-Peace River	6,773
	Central Alberta	4,733
		26,467
Saskatchewan	South Saskatchewan	264
	Prince Albert	889
	Saskatoon	3,917
		5,070
Manitoba & Northwestern Ontario		
	Brandon	4,656
	Superior	2,600
	Winnipeg	6,266
		13,522
Hamilton & London	Bruce-Grey	13,853
	Essex-Kent	14,200
	Hamilton	32,500
	London	22,765
	Maitland	11,803
	Niagara	16,182
	Paris	6,700
	Sarnia	13,176
	Stratford-Huron	30,714
		161,893
Toronto and Kingston	Algoma	1,477
	Barrie	21,392
	Brampton	13,220
	Kingston	8,318
	Lindsay	7,000
	Peterborough	13,750
	Pickering	12,665
	East Toronto	17,983
	West Toronto	9,900
	Waterloo-Wellington	18,500
	Oak Ridges	5,474
		129,679
Quebec and Eastern Ontario	Brockville	8,294
	Glengarry	7,828
	Lanark-Renfrew	15,746
	Montreal	7,800
	Ottawa	11,346
	Quebec	2,502
		53,516
TOTAL (for 8 months)		421,589
OBJECTIVE (for 1996)		1,117,300
PERCENTAGE		38%

The Other Child in the Stable

I am writing this on Christmas Eve–the night before the day Christians have set aside to commemorate the birth of a child born in a stable almost 2,000 years ago – a child destined to grow up to change the world–a child that we believe is truly the Son of God.

But I was thinking tonight of another child born in a stable...not on December 25th, but on May 18th; not 2,000 years ago, but a little over 100 years ago.

My father lived to be 96 years old. He was born in a stable–well, not exactly in the stable as was our Lord, but in rooms above a stable.

Last year when I was in England, one of my cousins pointed out a red brick building which had a sign on it proclaiming it to be "The Stables", now housing a Youth Movement Group.

"Your father was born there," said my cousin, and as I looked at the red brick building, massive, square unadorned, I tried to imagine what it would have been like for my grandmother, only 17, bearing her first child in rooms above the place where the horses were stabled. The horses used for towing the barges on the canal beside the building were the special care of my grandfather who drove them along the tow path pulling the barges behind them.

The air would have been redolent with the smell of horses' sweat and dung. Chaff from the hay which fed them would probably float through the air, while upstairs my grandmother laboured to give birth to the baby that would grow up to be my father.

I've often wondered since then what would have been my grandmother's thoughts. She was illiterate, could not read or write. She died some thirty years ago at the age of 94, and this episode in her life was not known to me then so I could not have asked her about it.

I draw no comparisons between the child in the manger of 2,000 years ago and my father born 110 years ago, except that I love them both.

Kay Berry,
Richmond, B.C.

The First Christmas Cards

(ZPS)—The original Christmas card is thought to have been sent by a British army officer named Dobson in 1844.

The first commercially produced Christmas cards were sold in England by Sir Henry Cole and J.C. Horsley in 1846. Those first cards outraged Christians because they portrayed a group of people drinking. It was at least twenty-five years before Christmas cards were widely used.

Since then, cards have become a major industry. This year Americans alone will spend nearly one billion dollars on Christmas cards, not counting postage.

Source: ***The Miracle of Christmas*** by John F. MacArthur, Jr. (ZondervanPublishingHouse, 1989, 1993). Available at your local bookstore or by calling 1-800-727-3480. MacArthur is pastor of Grace Community Church in Sun Valley, Calif and bestselling author of such books as ***The Gospel According to Jesus*** and ***Charismatic Chaos***.

What Does the Lord Require of You?

For groups wishing to study justice issues

by Margaret Greig
Program Secretary

This study looks at justice issues from a Canadian and a Guatemalan perspective. It is a follow up to a recommendation made at our recent General Assembly and an issue that sometimes touches us personally.

The 122nd General Assembly in Charlottetown adopted a recommendation:

> "That, given the deteriorating human rights situation in Guatemala and the Church's strengthening ties with Christians there, Canadian Presbyterians be encouraged to deepen their knowledge of Guatemala and to pray for our church partners there."
> (Acts and Proceedings, p. 294)

Many Canadians find life fair and equal. Others, for various reasons, experience economic or social injustice. Life often feels unjust when people have to struggle to attain basic needs like food and shelter or when circumstances change from affluence to poverty.

When life is good we take justice for granted. While we grumble about inequalities in various corners of our lives, we are often unaware of, or choose to ignore, the gross injustices in southern countries. In July 1995, Pastor Manuel Saquic Vasquez was kidnapped and brutally assassinated in Guatemala for trying to improve life for the poor and the very poor.

The legacy is that life has not improved for his wife Maria and their children, and they now live in constant fear because of his death. The Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Guatemala has since been kidnapped and many Mayan Christian leaders are being increasingly harassed. (See news item page 36 this issue.)

We may chose to turn our backs and shut these scenes out. It doesn't hurt when we do that. But the church in Guatemala has pleaded for our prayers and a sign of our solidarity with them. As a result the Assembly voted that we should be encouraged to hear this story and others like it. The Moderator of the 122nd General Assembly, Tam Corbett, made a visit in August 1996 to show our solidarity.

How then can we act on General Assembly's recommendation? There are various sources for information and study.

Visits such as that of Manuel's widow, Maria to the recent General Assembly in Charlottetown, and Tam Corbett's trip to Guatemala make us more aware of the plight of Presbyterians in Guatemala. A number of Canadian Presbyterian churches have organized short term study exposure tours or volunteer work groups to Central America. You might want to hear their story or organize a tour or work group of your own. Accounts of these trips have been published in *Glad Tidings*, The *Presbyterian Message* and *The*

What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? Micah 6:8b

> ***Open your hand to the poor and needy neighbor in your land.***
> Deuteronomy 15:11b

Presbyterian Record, including a feature story in the September 1996 issue. News from personnel in the area, like Joe Reed and Ken Kim, and other reliable news sources, helps too.

You can read about Guatemala in the Acts and Proceedings of the 122nd General Assembly, available through your minister. Listed below are two Scriptures to which you might want to refer, as well as the Justice section (8.4) from *Living Faith*. You may also chose to write letters. Contact Presbyterian World Service and Development and/or Justice Ministries at church offices for current issues, names and addresses.

Preparation

1. Read the section "Guatemala" from the International Affairs report. (Acts and Proceedings of the 122nd General Assembly (p. 292-294). Have someone tell the story to the group or provide copies for each person to read ahead of time.

2. Read together Micah 6:8b:

What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

An additional reference is Deuteronomy 15:7-11. (optional)

3. You may also want to read responsively the Justice section (8.4) from Living Faith* (optional)

Questions for Discussion

1. What are the injustices named or indicated in the Guatemalan report?
2. What does the scripture require of us?
3. What guidelines do we find in the Justice section from Living Faith*? (optional)
4. Name the things in your life, and in your community, that seem unjust.

LIVING FAITH

8.4.1 God is always calling the church to seek that justice in the world which reflects the divine righteousness revealed in the Bible.

8.4.2 God's justice is seen when we deal fairly with each other and strive to change customs and practices that oppress and enslave others.

8.4.3 Justice involves protecting the rights of others. It protests against everything that destroys human dignity.

8.4.4 Justice requires concern for the poor of the world. It seeks the best way to create well-being in every society. It is concerned about employment, education, and health, as well as rights and responsibilities.

8.4.5 Justice seeks fairness in society. It involves the protection of human beings, concern for the victims of crime, as well as offenders. It requires fair laws justly administered, courts and penal institutions that are just and humane.

8.4.6 Justice opposes prejudice in every form. It rejects discrimination on such grounds as race, sex, age, status, or handicap. Justice stands with our neighbours in their struggle for dignity and respect and demands the exercise of power for the common good.

5. As a Christian fulfilling scripture requirements, how can you further understand and perhaps confront issues of injustice of which you are aware?

***Living Faith: A Statement of Christian Belief.** *Published for The Presbyterian Church in Canada by Wood Lake Books Inc., Winfield, B.C. ©1984.*– **Reprinted with permission**

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'ONE WISE MAN'S FAMOUS GIFT FAILED TO EASE VIRGIN MARY'S PAIN'

London, 4 January (ENI) – Research by scientists at the University of Florence suggests that one of the gifts presented by the "wise men" mentioned in the New Testament nativity story was possibly intended not for the infant Jesus but for his mother.

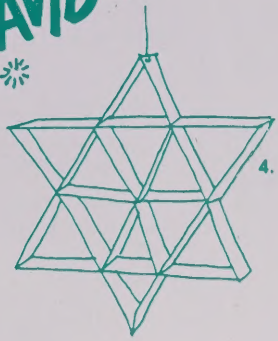
The scientists' findings, published in the British journal *Nature*, have found that myrrh, a resin from a north African shrub, contains two painkilling substances. Myrrh was one of the three gifts presented, according to Matthew's gospel, as homage to the infant from the "wise men from the East". The other gifts were gold and frankincense, an aromatic gum resin used for burning as incense.

The researchers said the findings raised the possibility that myrrh was intended not for the baby Jesus but to ease the labour pains of his mother, Mary.

However *The Times* newspaper in London quoted an official at the Church of England headquarters who said of the claims: "If that were the case, it would have been of little use. They [the wise men] were a bit late and he [Jesus] was already born."

Frank Imhoff, associate director, news and information section, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, told ENI that he had once heard that myrrh was used to ease the pain experienced on one's deathbed, and was often presented as a gift to a newborn child as a reminder of mortality.

STAR OF DAVID



GET READY
heavy colored paper
ruler
scissors
pencil
glue or tape
paper punch, string or yarn

GET SET

1. Cut twelve long, narrow strips of paper, all the same size.
2. Mark off a small section at the end of each strip. This part will be the "tab."

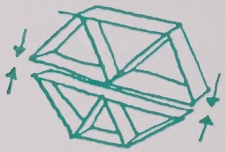
Use your ruler and pencil to divide the remaining part of each strip into three equal sections.

3. Fold on the marks and make each strip into a triangle. Glue or tape the tab.

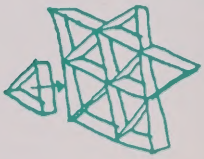
4. Now glue three triangles together to make a row of triangles.

Repeat to get another row of three triangles.

5. Now glue the two rows together as shown.
This will make a six-sided figure.



6. Glue one triangle to each of the six sides, creating a star.



GO
Punch a hole in the top part of the star and string a loop of string or yarn through for hanging.

"Star of David"

Source: *The Big Book of Bible Crafts and Projects*
by Joy MacKenzie (Zondervan Publishing House, 1982).
Available at your local bookstore or by calling 1-800-727-3480.

The Night Before Christmas

by Margaret F. White

"How are you going to find time for church tonight?" Sandy asked as she whisked in our last patient of the day. The medical clinic where we worked was busy for a Christmas Eve. Between patients we both had been making lists of jobs that still needed doing before the big event tomorrow.

My preparations began long before the first Sunday of Advent. There was so much to do that it took careful planning of time and money. The baking was done a month before and stored in the freezer. Gifts for everyone were carefully chosen and wrapped. Christmas cards carrying holiday greetings were sent. Brian and the boys had decorated the house beautifully with lights, tinsel and holly. The list was getting shorter!

On the way home I pulled into the bakery just as they were closing to pick up rolls for dinner. There would be twenty at our table this year.

The kitchen clock said 6 p.m. as I finished slicing the bread for dressing. The large turkey would be ready for the oven very early Christmas morning. Quickly I did an inventory of the refrigerator to make sure everything was ready.

My family were sitting in the driveway honking the car horn as I frantically changed my clothes and brushed my hair. Rush, rush, rush. We pulled up to the church just in time. As I sat in the pew the words came to mind, "I'm here, Lord, I made it."

The sanctuary was beautiful in the cold Christmas night. I was surrounded by my family and also by my greater church family. It was time – this was Christmas. I slowly bowed my head.

"O Lord, thank you for letting me be here tonight, in your house, to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Thank you for giving me the energy and good health to complete all my preparations. Thank you for the privilege and discipline of being a Christian. But most of all, Lord, thank you for the teaching of the true and real Christmas, the birth of Christ in the stable.

"Please help me in the biggest preparation of this season. Help me to prepare my heart and soul to accept your loving gift of the baby Jesus, our Saviour. Slow me down, Lord, make me quiet. Let me feel the peace, joy and love of your kingdom."

As I raised my head the choir began:
'Silent night! holy night!
All is calm, all is bright.'

– Margaret F. White is a member of First Presbyterian Church, Port Colborne, Ontario and works full time as a medical secretary. A freelance writer she has been published in *The Presbyterian Record* and various newsletters and newspapers.

BOOKS

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The Valley of the Shadow of Cancer *by Eleanor Bouwman. Published by Creative Bound Inc. Price $12.95.*

Almost everyone has been touched in some way by cancer, but to find someone who has been battling the disease and has actually committed the experience to paper is rare indeed.

Early in 1989, Eleanor Bouwman suffered what was diagnosed as a kidney stone attack. Later, it was determined that she actually had cancer of the kidney. She and members of her family had begun their journey through the *Valley of the Shadow of Cancer*.

This very readable book chronicles the author's journey–the emotional highs and lows, the doubts, the prayers, the importance of her faith and hope, and her determination to battle the disease. The "weapons" she uses to combat the cancer include traditional treatments, a specialized diet, a chiropractor, a holistic medical doctor, and the prayers of friends and family.

Throughout the book, the author talks of her reliance on God's strength. In situations where anxiety is high (such as waiting for test results), she makes herself live in her "box for today." "It takes self discipline to stay in that box, but with prayer it is possible and very crucial to the enjoyment of life." Several more tips that have been helpful in her battle are included at the end of the book.

Although each person's experiences will vary to some degree, this book offers much encouragement and hope for anyone who is journeying through the *Valley of the Shadow of Cancer*. Patients, family members, care givers, and friends alike would benefit from reading this book.

Laurie Wright

I Am Christmas *by Nancy White Carlstrom; illustrated by Lori McElrath-Eslick. Published by Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co. 1995. Price $25.25.*

I Am Christmas begins with a picture. A young woman dressed in a simple blue gown and sandals stands in the doorway of a plain, mud brick house. She is obviously pregnant. One hand rests upon her stomach as she gazes out the door into the sunlight, waiting. In the distance, walking down the path towards the small house, is a man leading a donkey. This is Mary and Joseph and this is the start of their journey together, "up hill and down, going to the town to be counted."

It is appropriate that *I am Christmas* should open with a picture rather than with words, for it is primarily through the illustrations that the story of the journey to Bethlehem is told. Nancy White Carlstrom's unusual text is a poetic accompaniment to the pictures, weaving together familiar biblical images for Christ such as the vine, the cup, the shepherd and the light, all of which are indexed in the back of the book.

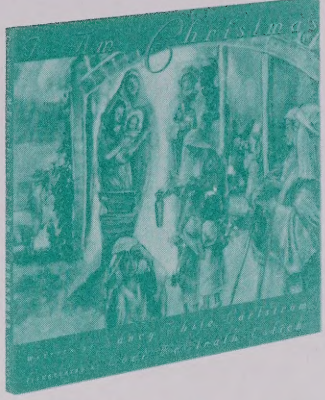
Lori McElrath-Eslick's oil paintings are warm, real and brimming with tenderness. In one scene, Joseph sits by the side of the road under a rough lean-to. Mary, exhausted from her day's travels, lies on the ground with her head resting in Joseph's

lap, his arms cradling her.

On another page, the young engaged couple are shown kissing one another in a gentle display of love rarely shown in books about Jesus' birth. Page after page, with beauty and accuracy, these paintings breathe life into a story of long ago.

Biblical images which at first seem abstract and difficult, suddenly become clear and concrete when set next to scenes of everyday life in Palestine. "I am the vine," reads the story, as Mary and Joseph ride by fields filled with tangled rows of sun-drenched grape vines.

"I am the bread," says the text, as Mary, Joseph and their travelling companions rest in a field, baking flat bread over smoking hot coals. Looking at the pictures, one can almost feel the sun on one's face and smell the sizzling dough. By weaving together biblical images with concrete, earthy scenes, readers of all ages can learn to see God in everyday things.



Without the illustrations, this book would probably be too complex and abstract for children, even though its language is simple. Together, however, text and paintings work well. *I Am Christmas* is moving without being sentimental. Most important of all, its message of good news is clear to young and old alike: "I am the gift God gives to his children sent down from above to the world. *I Am Christmas*."

Laura Alary

NEW PUBLISHER ENTERS MARKET

One of Canada's largest religious publishers is entering the trade market. Wood Lake Books of Winfield, BC has started a new affiliate company, Northstone Publishing. "Our goal with Northstone is to provide high quality products promoting positive social and spiritual values," says publisher Bennie Schlosser. "We are publishing books that will appeal to the new 'seekers,' those people who are searching for spiritual grounding, but who are not necessarily looking in the traditional religious venues. What we're doing, then, is repositioning ourselves. We are going to where people are."

The last few years have seen a phenomenal rise in trade sales of books dealing with values and spirituality, indicating that there is a spiritual hunger amongst readers. Northstone has the ability to appeal to those searching for values and meaning in their lives. "At root, I believe, people today want pretty much the same kinds of things they have always wanted," says Ann Wallin, former marketing manager. "But today they're looking for those things in new places, often because the old sources haven't been flexible enough to reach people where they are, making the material appealing and accessible."

"I'm optimistic about this," says Northstone's president, Bonnie Schlosser. "We have a track record of success, much of it based on the fact that we have been able to stay in touch with grassroots wants and needs. I see this repositioning as an extension of that process and history of success."

As an affiliate of Wood Lake Books, Northstone Publishing is expected to have

a successful launch from this firm foundation. Wood Lake Books' experience and reputation means that Northstone Publishing starts out with a solid editorial, production, and customer service base. Northstone readers can expect quality books, excellent customer service, and years of satisfying and fulfilling readings.

Northstone's affiliate, Wood Lake Books, will continue to publish books and resources for the church and religious store markets.

The WMS Book Room welcomes the opportunity to make Northstone's titles available to its customers, many of whom are familiar with Wood Lake publications.

Dorothy Ruddell, Manager of the WMS Book Room says, "Customers will be interested in the seven titles published in Spring 1996 with more following this fall.

"Of special note is *The Family Story Bible* which should be here soon. Many of you have purchased, *Living God's Way* by Ralph Milton, Wood Lake Books, 1992. Six more stories and 40 more pictures are included in *The Family Story Bible* by Ralph Milton and it is available in hard cover for $19.95; and *Treasury of Celebrations - Create Celebrations that Reflect Your Values and Don't Cost the Earth.* This new title should interest many of us. We look forward to seeing it. Watch for a review in Glad Tidings."

For more information, please contact the WMS Book Room or: Ann Wallin, Northstone Publishing, 330-1980 Cooper Road, Kelowna, BC V1Y 9G8. Phone: 604-766-2926. Fax: 604-766-1201. e-mail: info@northstone.com

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Northstone

Madeleine L'Engle, Suncatcher: Spiritual Vision of a Storyteller *by Carole F. Chase. Published by LuraMedia 1995. $22.95.*

This is a sensitive biography and overview of Madeleine L'Engle's many books. Chase says, "As I have reflected on the rich variety of books [L'Engle] has produced over nearly five decades, the image of a prism, or suncatcher, comes to mind."

"Imagine," Chase continues, "Madeleine's body of work as a prism catching the sunlight surrounding us that we do not literally 'see.' " Like a prism "Madeleine's gifts of intuition, imagination, and intelligence...catch the light beyond and make it visible in a rainbow of words, ideas, and emotions."

A complete listing of her books can be found in Appendix B and includes the following categories: adult fiction, young adult fiction, fantasy, autobiography, personal reflections on scripture, children's fiction, prayers and poetry.

Available from WMS Book Room

Dear Friends

Hydropower and Prayer

by Gerry Kent

What happens if you take a Christian mission organization, a Norwegian government utility, two multinational corporations, international lenders, and a fledgling Nepali utility? You have the first major private sector hydropower project in Nepal.

It all began when Odd Hoftun, a Norwegian electrical engineer, drove overland to Nepal with his and one other family back in 1963. The body of an old bus rested on the back of the truck which served as accommodation enroute and then later in Butwal, which at that time was a small town at the north edge of the Terai, a flat plains area in the south of Nepal. Tigers still roamed the area at night and there was virtually no industry.

Odd had recently worked constructing a hospital in the nearby hills and noticed that Nepalis needed training in the industrial trades. So he set up an apprenticeship training school, the Butwal Technical Institute, where young Nepalis learned through on the job training. These days several hundred applications are received for the 40 or so positions available, but back then Odd had to go out into the hills to persuade the boys to enrol.

- The Kent family, left to right, clockwise: Stephen, Lorna, Gerry, Ian, David, Rachel and Jenny.

Odd had noticed that the hills of Nepal offered many opportunities for hydropower development. Coming from Norway, where industrial and hydropower development had gone hand in hand, he felt Nepal should start harnessing its most significant resource. It is estimated there are 45,000 megawatts of hydropower potential in Nepal. However even today, only 250 megawatts have been developed.

Odd started small. The first plant was only 100 Kw in size. However, over the years an increasing size of plant was constructed: Tinau (1 MW, 1978), Andhi Khola (5.2 MW, 1991) and Jhimruk (12 MW, 1994).

Companies, joint ventures of His Majesty's Government of Nepal and United Mission to Nepal, were formed to preserve the growing expertise: Butwal Power Company Limited (1965) (BPC), which offers management, engineering and design services; Himal Hydro and General Construction Ltd. (1978) (Himal Hydro) which specializes in tunnelling and other civil construction work; and, Nepal Hydro and Electric (Pvt) Ltd. (1986) (NHE) which specializes in electro-mechanical design, manufacture and repair.

All are now leaders in Nepal in their fields of endeavour. In these companies UMN volunteer expatriate experts work side by side with their Nepali colleagues, helping the institutions and those within them to develop their capability in the hydropower field.

By 1991, the capability in these companies was such that they were attractive partners to international companies who were interested in investing and working in Nepal: Statkraft, the Norwegian government utility and the subsidiaries of ABB and Kvaerner, electro-mechanical contractors which are based in Norway. Together with these international partners, the

Nepali companies will build the Khimti Project.

The Khimti Project is the first major private sector hydropower project in Nepal, which should be finished by 1999 at a cost of approximately US $140 million. The public sector has failed miserably in its efforts to develop Nepal's abundant hydropower potential so Nepal wisely has turned to the private sector for help. The reasons UMN has supported the Project (by supplying expert expatriate volunteers to its related organizations BPC, Himal Hydro and NHE) are as follows:

(a) Khimti is the first project of its kind in Nepal and very much needed the local experience of the UMN related companies in order to start.

(b) The local people, all of whom are poor, will very much benefit from the Project. A mini-hydro plant, built to supply construction power, will be turned over to the local community once Khimti is finished and will supply a rural distribution network in the area. The Project has facilitated the formation of users' groups to manage and protect the local forests and other resources. Non-formal education classes have been held in the area for over three years which provide an opportunity to women to become literate and learn other valuable skills. Local people are given priority for employment both during and after construction. Local people will be trained to help operate the plant after completion.

(c) It will be an excellent opportunity to build the capacity of the local companies (BPC, Himal Hydro and NHE) and Nepalis involved as UMN personnel work side by side with them, training them "on the job" in project management skills.

(d) The Project has an environmental monitoring plan that is of the highest standards. Khimti is also a "run of the river" Project, so there will be no reservoir. The impact on the environment will be quite minimal. Significantly, there has been no criticism of this Project from any quarter. There is a broad based consensus that this Project is right for Nepal at this time.

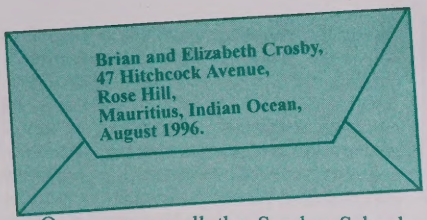
It is also encouraging that there is now a local church at the main construction site, started by Nepali Christians working in UMN's related organizations and supported by the UMN expatriates at site.

However a Project of this kind is very challenging in a country like Nepal and your prayers are very much needed to see the Project through to a successful conclusion.

The Thunder Storm
by Jenny Kent

In the middle of the night all was dark
Lightning crashing, rain pouring.
Me snuggled up in my sleeping bag -
Will morning ever come?
I hear rain simmering down and then...
BANG!
Another crash of thunder.
Rain gushing down.
Where is morning?
Then the sun starts to rise
The storm is over.

Art taken from Janakpur artwork
Cartoon and poem by Jenny Kent, Nepal



Once a year, all the Sunday Schools from the five congregations of the Presbyterian Church of Mauritius come together for the "Fete St. Jean" (celebrated on the Sunday after the festival of John the Baptist, June 24, in the "mother church" of Mauritian Presbyterians, Eglise St. Jean in the capital, Port Louis). It's an event which has had its ups and downs. When we arrived here fourteen years ago we were warned to prepare ourselves for a three-hour long stint: the "fete" would follow a normal worship service led by the clergy and would involve a presentation from each Sunday School.

When the day arrived (in June 1983) the warning was fulfilled. St. Jean church was comfortably full, with over 400 children and adults from all the congregations. After the worship service and a break, the "fete" began. It consisted almost entirely of recitations of Scripture and the Shorter Catechism (teachers prompting), with an occasional musical interlude. It seemed to be a competition to see which Sunday School could recite the longest.

A series of meetings over the next months determined that radical change was necessary. The formal worship service was jettisoned in favor of worship led by the Sunday schools: children leading the praise and prayers and reading and interpreting the Word through drama, song, dance, and collage. (The prime mover of this revolution was Alice Derblay–a person whom we have written about in these letters several times in the past–who went on to become Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of Mauritius for five consecutive terms.) The transformation was wonderful. To everybody's relief the "Fete St. Jean" became a 60 or 70 minute-long worship service with a truly youthful zest. Except last year.

Some leaders and guests had made long speeches, half the congregation had no copies of the songs being sung and it was "anything but a children's event."

There was a change in the Fete St. Jean this year and it was anything but the same old thing. Ginette Dennemont, newly empowered by a year of theological study in Scotland, was given the task of coordinating this year's fete and did a superb job. The central theme of "sharing" was developed in various imaginative ways by each of the five Sunday school groups. The music and congregational participation was excellent.

Ginette is pleased that her friend, Nicole Vitry, who shared her year of studies in Scotland, has now returned to Mauritius after a second year of theological study and work. Ginette and Nicole will be an important force as they share their skills and leadership abilities in the Church in Mauritius. Please pray for them that the Spirit may strengthen and encourage them and use them for the renewing and building up of his People, to the glory of His Name.

Brian and Elizabeth

Overseas Staff

December

15 - Rick Allen, Kenya
24 - Agwu David Onuoha, Nigeria
30 - Gerry Kent, Nepal
31 - Jack McIntosh, Japan

January

16 - Beth McIntosh, Japan
18 - Bob King, India
29 - Don MacKay, Nigeria

Hubert & Nan Budding,
c/o The United Mission to Nepal,
Post Box 126,
Kathmandu, Nepal
June 1996

It is more than three months since we returned to Butwal. A number of changes have occurred since we left. First, there is a new government. The former communist government had been retired by a decision of the supreme court and now we have a coalition with more right wing sympathies. I am not sure if there is a connection but a very large factory is being built not far from our house. It will produce hydro-electric power equipment. Now we also see many more late model cars and many more shops where Western luxury goods are available. At the banks foreign exchange is more readily available.

This liberalization is due to pressure from the International Monetary Fund who believes that Nepal sorely needs color TVs, microwave ovens and single malt whiskey. Solutions for urban sprawl and for pollution remain evasive. The squatter villages keep on growing. Experts say that Kathmandu has the highest rate of urbanization in the world. Its population has nearly doubled in the eight years we have been here and there are no signs that it is about to slow down.

The good news is that the Christian church is growing rapidly. The main reason for this is that after the revolution of 1990 the persecution diminished and many more people overcame their apprehension. In our church there are sixty new believers waiting for baptism. To minimize public attention our pastor likes to do it in stages. In spite of the nominal freedom of religion, there is still a great deal of public resistance.

Baptisms are done outside, in the river, early in the morning and only the pastor, the new believers and a few special guests are present. Some weeks ago we went along for the first time. We left a little after six in the morning, walked to the river where the pastor, after a short ceremony, dunked each new believer right under. Although it seems to lack the solemnity of our own baptismal ceremonies, it has a profound impact on the Nepalis. A picture of the event is valued as much as we value our wedding pictures and they remember the anniversary of their baptism better than their birthday.

Although the exact number of Christians in the country is not available, the Christian community is growing. Some congregations grow faster than can be recorded and sometimes new churches spring up in remote areas without anyone else being aware of their existence. An educated guess is that the number is about a hundred thousand, double from what it was five years ago. What all these young churches desperately need is strong well-trained leadership. There is a seminary now in Kathmandu and a number of Bible colleges. None of them have any research facilities to speak of.

A few Bible commentaries left behind by departing missionaries, constitute the library. It is a source of gratitude that more Christian literature is now being published in the Nepali language; there is more Sunday School material, more and different Bible translations, a two volume commentary on the New Testament. A great help to we who are foreigners is a bilingual Bible.

I had my first post-op medical examination and it was very satisfactory. The doctor told me that my lungs are 'phenomenal'

and there is no reason that within a year I will not be able to trek again.

At work I am very busy. We are upgrading a number of trainees. I am responsible for the syllabi of the welding group and I teach them some advanced mechanical drafting techniques. We are also starting a new power house operator training program, in which I also will be involved. There is work enough. In my spare time I am busy with translating the Heidelberg Catechism into Nepali.

Nan keeps busy with her "succumbassies." This morning she joined me for my morning walk and, as usual, when she comes along the walk takes much longer. In every shack there is some need to be filled, some advice to be given or some comfort to be brought. Some of these poor people just want a visit. They get jealous if you pass them by. "You visited everybody else, what about me?" At nine o'clock, after we had been at it for three hours and as the heat became oppressive we decided to go home and have our breakfast.

Although this week has been extremely hot, on the whole, the hot season is over. Now the monsoon is here, the rains bring the temperature down to a comfortable 32 degree Celsius inside our house.

If by any chance you have access to e-mail facilities, this feature of modernity is now also available in Nepal. The address here is dcs@umn.mos.com.np. Make sure to include my name; it is not a private address.

Again, we want to thank everybody for the generous support we received in our clothing drive. Many children, who went around naked or dressed only in rags now have some decent clothes. We tried to acknowledge all parcels. Unfortunately some arrived so mutilated that the sender could not be identified. Also during my illness and our stay in Canada a number of boxes arrived. The reception and distribution was handled by a colleague. I am not sure if everything was properly recorded. But I am sure that all clothes that arrived went to the poor. If by any chance a parcel you sent remained unacknowledged we'd like to thank you on behalf of the poor of Phul-Bari, the field of flowers, by means of this letter.

Please continue to pray for these people. Their life is hard and there is so little hope. Even today little Raju came with his father. He looked so thin and pale and we had to send him to the hospital for a checkup. It turned out that he has advanced T.B. and needs a nine month's cure of expensive medication that his family can ill afford. On a good day his father earns two dollars.

With warm Christian greetings,
Hubert & Nan

THERESA BENJAMIN
[HEALTH PROFESSIONAL]

Yesterday, she travelled 8 miles on foot, crossed 1 river by canoe, provided health counselling for 20 mothers, met with 40 traditional birth attendants, and immunized 100 children.
[It was an average day.]

Theresa lives in Freetown, Sierra Leone, where she is part of an international team of health professionals working to rid the world of six preventable child-killing diseases. **The odds can be beaten... and you can help.**

For more information on how you can help support this program, please contact:

Canadian Public Health Association
1565 Carling Avenue, Suite 400,
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1Z 8R1
Telephone: (613) 725-3769
Fax: (613) 725-9826
E-Mail: infociip@cpha.ca

Canada's International Immunization Program is financially supported by CIDA.

NEWS

WICC APPOINTMENT

The Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada, is pleased to announce the appointment of Rev. Karen Hincke, BA, STM, C.VSM, as its new Executive Director, effective 9 September 1996.

Ms. Hincke, an ordained minister of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, brings to this position a wide variety of financial and administrative experience. She holds a certificate in NonProfit Management and Leadership from York University, in addition to her Master's degree in Sacred Theology from McGill University.

Ms. Hincke has been ministering within The Presbyterian Church in Canada since 1975. Her previous position was that of General Secretary, Service Agency in its national office in Toronto, where she also served, ex-officio, on several boards and committees.

WICC looks forward to its future partnership with Ms. Hincke in the visioning of new goals and directions for its work as a national ecumenical Christian women's organization.

We ask you to remember the Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada in prayer as we face the future with new purpose and direction.

Please note the changes which have been made to the address, phone and fax numbers of our national offices. These changes are the result of our efforts to reduce costs and to be more effective stewards of the funds entrusted to us:

Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada, Suite 602 - 60 St. Clair Avenue East, Toronto, ON M4T 1N5. Phone: (416) 929-5184. Fax: (416) 929-4064.

MURDERED PASTOR'S WIDOW THREATENED

Guatemala, 28 June (ENI) – The widow of a Guatemalan Presbyterian pastor, murdered a year ago, apparently because of his human rights work, has herself received a death threat.

Manuel Saquic, a Presbyterian pastor who defended the human rights of the country's indigenous majority, was allegedly killed by right-wing terrorists linked to the Guatemalan military.

Saquic's murder was followed by worldwide protests from churches and other organizations to the Guatemalan authorities and by demands that the authorities arrest a military commissioner, Victor Roman, widely alleged to have arranged or carried out Saquic's murder and that of another Presbyterian worker. Roman remains free, despite an arrest warrant and repeated government promises to apprehend him.

Saquic's widow, Maria Francisca Ventura, received the threat the day after a service on 23 June by the National Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Guatemala marking the first anniversary of Saquic's death, according to the Latin American and Caribbean communications agency, *ALC*.

Ventura, who owns a small stand where she sells clothes, told police that on 24 June a man pretending to be a client told her helper "to tell Maria Francisca that she will pay a heavy price for yesterday's acts".

Those present at the service in Chimaltenango, denounced the Guatemalan authorities for failing to apprehend Roman.

Many prominent church leaders from abroad– including the moderators of the Church of Scotland and the Presbyterian Church (USA)–have told the Guatemalan authorities of their concern about the failure to apprehend Roman.

NEED FOR FOOD IN NORTH KOREA

(Winnipeg, MB, Sept. 10, 1996) – Al Kehler, program coordinator of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, who returned last week from his second tour of North Korea, said the current food shortage in North Korea is actually worse than the famine that hit Ethiopia in 1983/84, but because the Korean government has spread the shortage over most of the population there hasn't been as much widespread mortality.

Poor economic planning and floods that hit the country last summer devastated food stocks, crops, dams and irrigation systems, leaving the North Korean people desperately short of food and prompting the North Korea government to make an unprecedented appeal for international assistance. In August, a second wave of flooding caused further damage to agricultural land. As a result, the total shortfall of cereal grains is expected to exceed one million tonnes next year and will affect virtually all of North Korea's 22 million people.

The intent of sending the Foodgrains Bank delegation to North Korea– which included Rick Fee (Presbyterian World Service and Development)– was to increase the food agency's knowledge of the country, follow up on a recent Canadian Foodgrains Bank shipment of 4,350 metric tonnes of rice and assess the ongoing food needs of the North Korean Population.

Kehler predicts North Korea will remain a priority for the 13-member Foodgrains Bank with critical shipments being required during March to October of 1997. "North Korea should be able to sustain itself through the winter with the harvest that will be completed next month," said Kehler.

The Bank's resolve to help the hungry of North Korea is continuing despite their inability to secure Canadian government approval to use funding normally available from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). Typically, food and cash donations made to the Foodgrains Bank are matched at a ratio of 4:1 under an agreement with CIDA, but North Korea is not on the government's list of eligible recipients and to date, the government has not made an exception in the case of North Korea.

Kehler said he's disappointed with the government's response to their initial call for help, but added he is understanding of the government's expressed concerns with monitoring. However, the recent trip has him convinced the provision of food aid to North Korea can be managed effectively.

To date, seven of the 13 church-partners, including Presbyterian World Service and Development, that make up the Foodgrains Bank have responded with aid totalling Cdn$1.8 million which has been used to purchase almost 4.4 thousand metric tonnes of rice–enough food to feed over 440,000 North Koreans for one month.

NEWS - MISSION STUDY THEMES

(ANS) The number of Christians in Shanghai has grown by more than 200% in the last ten years. According to the Shanghai Christian Council, there are now 127,000 baptized Protestants in the municipality. They are served by 41 pastors, 120 evangelists and more than 120 elders. There are now 111 church buildings, 37 of which have been built since 1986. Seven church buildings are currently under construction, and the construction of a further five is planned for 1997.

3.3 million Bibles will be printed at the Amity Printing Press in 1996. Currently, about 10,000 Bibles are being shipped from Nanjing every day to the more than 40 distribution centers of the China Christian Council, or to churches directly.

Since 1991, more than one million Bibles have been going to Christians meeting in homes. And between 30,000 and 50,000 Bibles are being distributed annually free to Christians too poor to afford one.

Due to increased production costs, the price for a basic Bible has been raised from 9.5 yuan to 12.5 yuan.

(ANS) Christianity has been growing rapidly in Henan Province in recent years, according to the

Henan Christian Council. The number of baptized Christians is now estimated at about 1.5 million, with an additional two million seekers who have not yet been baptized.

In comparison to this growth, the number of church workers is still very low, though much effort is spent in training new personnel. There are 106 pastors in the province, 60 of whom were ordained in recent years, and about 30 of whom are under 40 years of age. The oldest active pastor in Henan is 96 years old. Additionally, the province has 243 elders (170 of them ordained in recent years) and about 4,000 evangelists, many of them old men. Evangelists have usually had several months of training on a county or prefectural level. More than 200 graduates of Henan Bible School and about 100 graduates from Nanjing and Wuhan Seminaries serve local churches but have not yet been ordained. They are usually young, and many of them are women.

The ratio of ordained church workers to Christians varies regionally. In Xinyang Prefecture, five ordained pastors, four elders and 199 evangelists serve 150,000 Christians. But Gushi County within the prefecture has only one pastor for 50,000 Christians. Zhumadian Prefecture with an estimated number of about 200,000 Christians has only two pastors and nine elders, plus 301 evangelists.

From an Amity Newsletter: With rural areas in mind, we published 30,000 copies of a Chinese adaptation of the medical handbook, *Where There is No Doctor.* The handbook was originally written for farm people in the mountains of Mexico, and has become a classic in development circles in third world countries, published in 20 different languages. After being adapted to the Chinese setting by a number of specialists, the book teaches basic hygiene, disease prevention, nutrition and baby care, first aid and the treatment of common illnesses through traditional methods and well-tried household remedies in clear and simple language with many illustrations.

(PWS&D made a CIDA matched contribution to facilitate the first printing of this book.) The response to the book was unexpected. The book has been found invaluable not only by health workers, but also by church workers in the rural areas who regularly refer to the book since they are frequently approached by poor people seeking relief from their physical suffering.

With China's economic reform, a notable change has taken place in Chinese Christian thinking. Instead of worshipping God from within the walls of the church building, as has been the tradition, Chinese Christians have begun thinking about giving witness to God's love. Amity has provided seven church-run clinics with urgently needed equipment and medicine. They are functioning well, sustained by contributions from Christians and the voluntary service of retired Christians.

Globe and Mail July 16: 70% of Chinese have access of some kind to television but only 3% have access to a telephone. (Source: The Washington Post)

CHURCH'S ROLE IN HONG KONG POST-1997

Hong Kong, 1 July (ENI) – The church has an important role in encouraging a sense of mission among those who stay in Hong Kong after the hand-over of power to Beijing next year, according to a prominent Hong Kong theologian.

"Negative thinking is no good for Hong Kong people nor for Christians," Lo Lung-kwong said in an interview in the latest edition of "News and Views", published by the Hong Kong Christian Council (HKCC).

Beijing has pledged "business as usual" when the British crown colony reverts to Chinese rule on 1 July 1997.

However, it is estimated that at least one-sixth of Hong Kong's citizens have either foreign passports or

the right of abode in other countries because of fears about 1997.

In his interview in the HKCC magazine, Lo–who is also chairperson of the HKCC social concerns committee–said that although some Christians would leave Hong Kong because of the handover, "the church as a whole and many Christians will remain in Hong Kong."

About 10 per cent of Hong Kong's population of 5.9 million people are Christians. It is estimated that there are 900 Protestant congregations in the colony.

The church, Lo said, has an important role to play in encouraging those who stayed in Hong Kong "to face the reality and to stay with a sense of mission, not because they have no choice, not just that they are stuck in this dilemma."

Speaking of the relationship between the church and state in Hong Kong after 1997, Lo pointed to many biblical passages "saying that we should have a cooperative relationship with the state and that we should not avoid political involvement in this world," but he added: "When we have to choose between loyalty to the state and loyalty to our God, of course the latter prevails."

He said that there was sometimes "confusion" because the Chinese translation of the phrase "separation of church and state" means "separation of politics and religion."

"We don't want the state power to intervene in the church for their own purpose, and we also don't want the church to use the government power to achieve our own goals, like what happened in medieval times," Lo said.

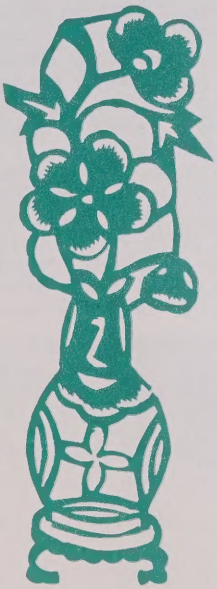
Continued international attention on Hong Kong was "vitally important", he said. "The international community does have a responsibility to watch closely to see whether human rights and freedom have been maintained or even improved, or whether they have been violated and have deteriorated."

China has pledged to respect religious freedom in Hong Kong after the handover, but a senior communist official dealing with religious issues has said that Hong Kong's religious community must love their "mother country".

Christopher Patten, Great Britain's last Governor of Hong Kong, has urged vigilance to ensure that religious freedom remains intact when the British territory is handed over to Chinese authorities next year.

Asked by *Asia Focus*, a Roman Catholic newsletter published in Hong Kong, if special measures should be taken to protect religious freedom after the handover, Governor Patten said: "I don't think anything should need to be done beyond the provisions of the Joint Declaration and the articles in the Basic Law [for Hong Kong, agreed between China and Great Britain]. The guarantees of religious freedom are plain.

"But it will be important, in this area as in others, for people to make it absolutely clear they expect those undertakings to be followed in the spirit and to the letter. I think if there was ever any attempt to redefine religious freedom in ways which constrained it, then people would have to speak out."



IN THE SOCIETY

SYNODICAL

Make a Joyful Noise Unto the Lord was the theme for the **Hamilton and London** Synodical Ladies Camp held at Camp Kintail on the beautiful shores of Lake Huron.

Under the direction of Chris Evans and Dorothy Neal, following supper on Friday evening a "Getting to Know You" program was enjoyed. At the close of the evening devotions an *In Memoriam* service was conducted by Marion Mundell and the women of Maitland Presbyterial.

Saturday began with morning watch conducted by Bonnie Arbour. Two meaningful Bible Studies were held under the direction of Barb Clarke both morning and afternoon. Since our evening program featured "Christmas in June" Anne Redick and Evelyn Souwand taught us to make little angels which graced the fireplace. During the free time the various groups made a Christmas centerpiece for their respective tables.

Following a delicious turkey dinner prepared by Lance and his assistants we enjoyed an old fashioned Christmas concert. Music was provided by Alice Brown. Santa Claus in the person of Cathy Pearson and the elf (Betty Cornish) arrived with bags of candy for everyone. Margaret McLennan was presented with a gift for perfect attendance at Ladies' Camps.

On Sunday morning, Synodical president, Eleanor Irwin, assisted by women from her Presbyterial conducted "Morning Watch."

Rev. Gwen Brown, director at Kintail, conducted the Sunday service and communion in the beautiful outdoor chapel.

Thanks to Shirley McCall, Synodical Literature Secretary, for displaying books and to the young people for assisting in many ways.

- Co-Directors, Ladie's Camp, Kintail, left Chris Evans with Dorothy Neal.

Journeying in Hope was the theme of the Women's Spring Gathering. This annual provincial meeting, organized by the **Saskatchewan Core Committee**, WMS attracted Presbyterian women from all over Saskatchewan. It was held at **St. Andrew's** Church in **Saskatoon** on June 1, 1996. Forty-five women attended the day-long session.

Donna Wilkinson spoke and showed slides of her PWS&D trip to India and Pakistan. Bible Study was led by Margaret Wilson. Pat Beck gave her impressions of the Women's 1995 Conference in Beijing, China. Mary Bishop and Terry Folster led the singing during the day. Closing Worship and Communion, led by Rev. Bev Cushman, climaxed a day filled with inspiration, challenge and fellowship.

PRESBYTERIAL

A warm welcome was extended by President, Betty McLagan to the **Westminster** Presbyterial Friendship Luncheon on June 8. Rev. Murat Kuntel, minister of the host church, **St. Columba**, asked the blessing.

A delicious assortment of sandwiches and sweets, courtesy of the women of St. Columba and of the Chinese Church was enjoyed by everyone.

Kay Berry introduced a group from St. Columba which presented various instrumental and vocal selections. Grace Murdoch sold WMS items and 'used books' donated by members of Presbyterial. Council highlights were presented by Irene

Sandie, Presbyterial delegate. Synodical President, Laurie Jackson, spoke of the new staff at the WMS national office. Betty McLagan thanked all the participants for making the luncheon an enjoyable event. Margaret Walker closed with prayer.

Huron Feathers Presbyterian Centre at Sauble Beach was a beautiful setting for the **Bruce-Grey** Presbyterial WMS Fall Rally held September 11, 1996. In spite of the cloudy weather a view of the lake with soft rolling waves was enjoyed throughout the day.

The day began with a morning watch consisting of a time of reflection and discussion led by Ida Human. Are we an engine working to become a leader or a caboose saying "what's the use?" was the focus of the discussion.

An informative introduction to this year's studies was given by Carol Mackowski. She was effectively assisted by Wyn Smith, Rev. Pearl Vasharhelyi and Joanna Heerschap.

A picnic style lunch was enjoyed in the great outdoors and followed by a stroll on the beach.

The afternoon opened with a rousing sing along led by Alva Irving, accompanied by Donna Ward on the piano.

A fun quiz followed. The identities of several Bible characters were guessed by the audience as they were acted out by Kay Remus, Jean Eves and Ida Human.

The Rally closed with a fitting worship service based on Psalm 104 conducted by Pat Carpenter and Jean Butchart.

ANNIVERSARY

On July 14th the WMS of **Knox Church, West Lorne, Ontario** celebrated their 110th anniversary. President Hazel Stalker presided and special music was provided by Jane McGregor and a combined choir.

Devotions were capably led by Ruth Campbell, Dutton. Jean McKillop, Wallacetown was in charge of a very impressive Candle Lighting ceremony. Candles were lit by Betty Brown in memory of the Pioneers; Donna Jean Godfrey for *Present* members and Heather Morton for *Future* members. Kay Attridge gave the history of the past 110 years. Lila McGill and Cathy Attridge ushered and Bev Witroway was in charge of the Guest Book.

Marilyn Davey introduced guest speaker, Marion Orchard, a valued member of Knox Church, St. Thomas. Marion gave an enthusiastic and humorous talk on treasures. Cheryl Dinkel extended the courtesies. Rev. Tom Godfrey pronounced the benediction.

Everyone retired to the lower hall for refreshments. Greetings were brought by members of London Presbyterial and Hamilton-London Synodical.

LOCAL

In appreciation for her steadfast faithful WMS service, Alberta (Babs) Koolewine was presented with an Honorary Membership and pin. The presentation was made by her friends and fellow members at the Sunday morning church service on May 5 (her birthday) in **Morewood** Church.

Alberta immigrated from Holland with her husband and young family in 1951, and soon after joined the local WMS. Throughout the years, she actively participated at both the local and Brockville Presbyterial level. She has served as the treasurer of the Morewood Society for many years and has also been a valued mentor in the group's studies.

After the presentation, Alberta

- Left to right: Rev. Bert DeBruijn, Alberta Koolewine, Isobel Wooldridge, Estella MacGregor.

expressed her gratitude for the honour. Rev. and Mrs. Bert DeBruijn sang a special birthday blessing. A congregational Communion Service completed the celebration.

At the April meeting of **Fairview** WMS, **Vancouver**, Lorraine Howard brought greetings from the Red Cross who are this year celebrating their 100th Anniversary. Commemorative pins were presented to each member. (See picture below.)

The Helen Young Auxiliary of the **Paris** WMS honoured Kathleen McTavish on September 12, by presenting an "In Memoriam" certificate in her name to the church.

Miss McTavish, who died earlier this year, was a charter member of this Auxiliary with a great knowledge of our mission fields and missionaries over the years.

She and her twin sister, Helen, who predeceased her, were hard workers for the society and supporters of the Paris Presbyterial and the Hamilton-London Synodical. Kathleen will be missed by us all.

Additions to Honorary Membership 1995

Harrison, Jeanne
Lindberg, Pat
Red Deer, Alberta

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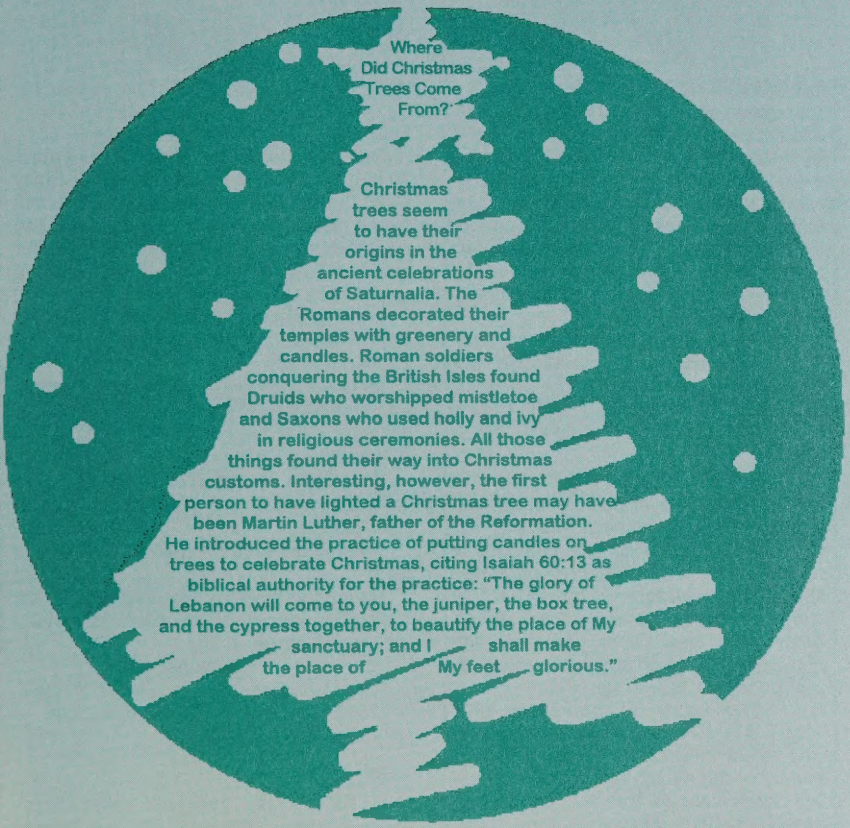
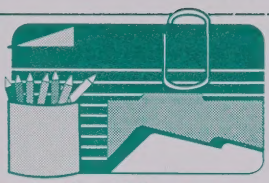

Where Did Christmas Trees Come From?
Christmas trees seem to have their origins in the ancient celebrations of Saturnalia. The Romans decorated their temples with greenery and candles. Roman soldiers conquering the British Isles found Druids who worshipped mistletoe and Saxons who used holly and ivy in religious ceremonies. All those things found their way into Christmas customs. Interesting, however, the first person to have lighted a Christmas tree may have been Martin Luther, father of the Reformation. He introduced the practice of putting candles on trees to celebrate Christmas, citing Isaiah 60:13 as biblical authority for the practice: "The glory of Lebanon will come to you, the juniper, the box tree, and the cypress together, to beautify the place of My sanctuary; and I shall make the place of My feet glorious."

This excerpt is taken from *The Miracle of Christmas* by John F. MacArthur, Jr. (ZondervanPublishingHouse, 1993), available at your local bookstore or by calling 1-800-727-3480.



Circulation News

Has your group returned the Glad Tidings subscription list to the office? In order to have the changes/additions/deletions done for the January/February 1997 issue, we needed to receive the subscription list by November 1. Also, it saves us time and money in not having to follow up. Please note the subscription cost is $10.00 for 1997.

Your help is appreciated in making sure your address is correct on the subscription list the Glad Tidings Secretary has, especially the postal code and your apartment or box number.

Does the number 000050 appear on the label of your copy of Glad Tidings magazine? This means you are an individual subscriber. In October a renewal form was mailed to you and it should be returned to the office as soon as possible. Returning these forms no later than the end of November saves us time and money in not having to follow up later.

If you know of someone who would like to receive a gift subscription to the magazine, please give the name to the Glad Tidings Secretary for her to add to the list. If she has already mailed the list to the office, either the GT Secretary or you can send the information directly to the office. Make sure it is marked "gift" and indicate who it is from. Also, please indicate whether you wish our office to send a gift card to the recipient or whether you wish a card sent to you to be given to them.

Katherine Allen,
Circulation Manager

Dear June:

Just received the September-October 1996 issue of Glad Tidings. I wept with joy when I read *Clipped Wings* by Elizabeth Payne. What a brave soul. And yet she can count her blessings. Congratulations to her and her husband on their 56th wedding anniversary. A wonderful inspiration to all. I've just telephoned Maria Stam as she and I are friends, and both are in this issue. Thanks for both of us.

Imagine meeting and taking a course with Madeleine L'Engle! I discovered her through a gift book of hers, *Walking On Water*. Marvellous writer.

Enclosing a subscription to Glad Tidings. I read it with pleasure and find it most helpful.

Your poem *Creator* is good. Thank you for it.

Struggling with my word processor, but loving it more each time I master the tricky bits and pieces of it.

Sincerely yours,
Gladys Nolan
London, ON

Dear June:

I have just received the September/October 1996 issue of Glad Tidings and as usual have enjoyed reading it.

I really enjoyed the article Thanksgiving Day by Gwyneth Bell, as it reminded me of the time during World War II, when we had a very bad rain and ice storm right after Christmas, and it was well into the New Year before our electricity was restored.

We didn't have turkey or a roast for our dinner on New Year's day, but we did manage to have a lovely hot meal from canned

food, and cooked on a rack over hot coals, in our furnace.

We did that for over a week, until our electricity was restored, but how thankful we were to have a very warm house, plenty of food and lots of homemade candles.

I am sure June, you must have some memories of those days even though you were only three or four years old that year.

You have come a long way since then, and we are all very proud of you, and wish you continued success in whatever you do.

Written, with a lot of love,
Your loving Mother
Mae Hiscock,
Cornwall, ON

Dear friends:
I've just finished reading the current Glad Tidings magazine and again thankful for it. I'm glad June was able to experience the writing workshop in Vancouver. One of our church choir members also attended and shared some of her experiences with us at a worship service one Sunday–a very powerful one.

Thank you for the variety of articles that both challenge and encourage me. Your news under "South Africa's Truth Commission Breaks Down" was so painful to read–I can never, never fully appreciate what Archbishop Tutu is having to endure–thank God he is having ongoing counselling–he truly needs our prayers, so do they all!

My blessings and love go with you all.
Grace Garceau,
Salt Springs Island, BC

Mrs. Elda Tolton,
St. Andrew's, Allenford, Ont.

Mrs. Pearl Dougherty,
Mrs. Kaye Rainey,
St. Andrew's, Barrie, Ont.

Mrs. E. Ruth Blair,
Mrs. Margaret A. Prescott,
Knox, Burlington, Ont.

Vera Cavers,
St. Andrew's, Carleton Place, Ont.

Mrs. Mary Kerr,
Cookes', Chilliwack, B.C.

Mrs. Bessie Baird,
First, Collingwood, Ont.

Margaret Galbraith,
Knox, Dundas, Ont.

Miss Susan McGregor,
Mrs. Barbara Norman,
St. Andrew's, Islington, Etobicoke, Ont.

Mrs. Barbara Corbett,
Caven, Exeter, Ont.

Mrs. Grace Voycey,
Knox, Gamebridge, Ont.

Miss Sara Ellen (Nellie) Gilkinson,
Knox, Goderich, Ont.
(formerly Central, Brantford, Ont.)

Mrs. Connie Gillespie,
Westminster-St. Paul's, Guelph, Ont.

Mrs. Gordon (Eva) Sim,
Innerkip, Ont.

Miss Bessie Black,
Margaret Rodger Memorial,
Lachute, Que.

Mrs. Ethel Houston,
St. Andrew's, Napier, Ont.

Miss Jessie Greig,
Knox, Oshawa, Ont.

Mrs. Mary Hutton,
St. Paul's, Ottawa, Ont.

Mrs. Howard (Jean) McMaster,
Knox, Palmerston, Ont.

Mrs. Lionel (Gladys) Cope,
Knox, Port Carling, Ont.

Mrs. Alma Morden,
Rodney, Ont.

Mrs. C. Kay Ellis,
St. Giles, St. Catharines, Ont.

Mrs. Edith Yoos,
Sylvan Lake, Alta.
(formerly Parkview, Saskatoon, Sask.)

Mrs. Georgina (Ina) Paterson,
St. John's, Toronto, Ont.

Miss Joy McLean,
Wychwood-Davenport, Toronto, Ont.

Mrs. Irene MacIver,
St. Andrew's, Welland, Ont.

Mrs. Lyla Allison,
Mrs. Genevieve Moodie,
St. Paul's, Winchester, Ont.

Mrs. Olive McKay,
St. Andrew's, Wingham, Ont.

Mrs. Ruth McDonald,
St. Andrew's, Wyoming, Ont.

Correction:
In Remembrance -September/October issue should read Mrs. Maybelle Cann not Mrs. Maybelle Cana of Caven, Exeter, Ont.

Where is Christmas?

Crowded shops are everywhere,
People jostling here and there.
Shelves are filled with many things;
But on the Christmas tree
No angel sings,
And the carols blaring loud
Go unheard by rushing crowds.
Where is Christmas in the world today?
Beneath the steeple folk rejoice,
Praising Christ in straw-filled cradle,
Born on Christmas Day, in humble stable!

Grace Hartley

Glad Tidings is printed on recycled paper

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Please report any errors/changes in address.